

Sultan objects to talks on arms sales

BAHRAIN (R) — Saudi Defence and Aviation Minister Prince Sultan bin Abdul Aziz said Tuesday West Germany had no right to discuss matters related to Saudi Arabia with third parties. Prince Sultan, quoted by the Saudi Press Agency, was replying to reporters' questions on what the agency said were plans by West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl to discuss supplying Saudi Arabia with arms during his current visit to the United States. "The United States does not represent the kingdom and Germany has no right to discuss anything related to the kingdom with a third country," he said. Dr. Kohl Monday told U.S. Jewish leaders opposed to German arms sales to Saudi Arabia that such support for the kingdom would bring stability to the Middle East.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
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Klibi in Iraq with new peace bid

BAGHDAD (AP) — Arab League Secretary-General Chadli Klibi flew in from Qatar on Tuesday with a new mediation bid for warring Iran and Iraq, it was officially announced. Iraq's Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz met Mr. Klibi at Baghdad airport. Mr. Klibi as quoted by the Iraqi News Agency as saying he would brief President Saddam Hussein "on his discussions with officials of several Arab countries and friendly states on the situation in the Gulf region in the light of the escalation of the Iran-Iraq war." Mr. Klibi, the agency added, will also convey to President Hussein the Arab countries' "wish to intensify efforts and support mediations aimed at pushing the Iranian regime towards peace." Mr. Klibi, in addition to his talks with officials in Qatar, visited Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and Syria before coming here.

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Israelis kill Lebanese villager

TEL AVIV (AP) — A 20-year-old Lebanese man was shot to death during a confrontation between Israeli soldiers and protesting villagers in the United Nations patrolled zone in South Lebanon, a U.N. spokesman said Tuesday.

Soviets holding out on U.N. vote

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Soviet ambassador Oleg A. Troyanovsky says he is continuing to resist early U.N. Security Council action on the situation in Beirut. In the council last Wednesday, he vetoed a French resolution that would have substituted a U.N. force for the Multi-National Force now in the process of pulling out of the Beirut area. On Monday, Mr. Troyanovsky was one of several council members who met privately with the council president, Mr. March, Peruvian Ambassador Javier Arias Stella. The Soviet ambassador told reporters afterwards: "I told him we think it is better to wait a little longer to let the dust settle."

Pope sends mission to Lebanon, Syria

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope John Paul II on Tuesday sent a special three-member delegation on a peace mission to Lebanon and Syria, the Vatican announced. The announcement described the pontiff as "deeply worried" over recent events in Lebanon. It said the sending of the delegation was in line with "the pope's repeated calls for the establishment of a just and lasting peace" in Lebanon.

Sharon escapes Sidon attack

TEL AVIV (AP) — Former Israeli Defence Minister Ariel Sharon escaped injury near the South Lebanon city of Sidon on Tuesday when a roadside charge exploded next to the convoy in which he was travelling, an Israeli military spokesman said. The spokesman, who spoke on condition he not be named, said a bomb exploded as the convoy carrying Mr. Sharon passed through the northern outskirts of Sidon. Mr. Sharon, a minister without portfolio in the 19-member cabinet, was quoted by Israel Radio as saying he had gone to South Lebanon to "relearn the situation" after Lebanon's abrogation Sunday of the Lebanese-Israeli troop withdrawal pact of May 17.

Kuwait nabs more suspected saboteurs

KUWAIT (AP) — Two persons have been arrested on charges of complicity in the Dec. 12 spate of bomb blasts that wrecked the U.S. and French embassies along with four other local targets, the newspaper Al Anba reported Tuesday. Security authorities refused to confirm or deny the report. The arrest brought to 27 the total of persons involved in the blasts which took five lives and left 86 persons wounded. Of the total, 25 have been indicted and tried, four of them in absentia. The trial was reported completed last week, and government sources said the state security court was to hand down verdicts on March 27.

Gemayel invites factional leaders to Lausanne talks

BEIRUT (Agencies) — President Amin Gemayel on Tuesday officially invited Lebanese factional leaders to reconciliation talks in Switzerland next Monday as the opposition backedpedalled on its demand for his resignation.

Administration officials said the government was pressing for a durable ceasefire as hostilities eased significantly with the Monday cancellation of the May 17 troop withdrawal pact with Israel. Still, mainly Christian rightist and mostly Muslim leftist militiamen exchanged small-arms fire and grenades across the "green line" splitting Beirut, and brief artillery exchanges between Lebanese army troops and militiamen were reported in the hills east of the capital. Police said two civilians were killed and 16 wounded in the Beirut fighting.

Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) and Shiite Muslim opposition leaders pledged to support a new ceasefire and co-operate in reconciliation talks now that their key demand — the cancellation of the accord with Israel — was met by Mr. Gemayel.

Nabih Berri, head of the largest Shiite Muslim militia known as "Amal," told a news conference in Beirut that he still believed Mr. Gemayel should resign but that there were other ways to deal with his objections to Mr. Gemayel's handling of the presidential office.

"I asked him to resign for the

sake of Lebanon. If he will do it, O.K. If not, then I have a project to reduce his term as president," Mr. Berri said. But he quickly added that his demands about the presidency were "negotiable."

PSP leader Walid Junblatt, who is currently in Amman, was quoted by Beirut Radio stations as saying that when he said he would not accept anything short of Mr. Gemayel's resignation, he meant "that his policies should resign and not him as a person."

In Amman he told the Jordan Times that while he welcomed the abrogation of the Israeli-Lebanese pact, more steps are needed to achieve "true national reconciliation" in Lebanon.

The government said Tuesday the reconciliation talks would open on Monday at the Beau Rivage Hotel in Lausanne, Switzerland, and invitations were being sent to leaders of all factions.

An official announcement said all participants at an earlier round of talks held in Geneva last year were being invited. It added that the Swiss government had requested that all delegates stay at the Beau Rivage Hotel to facilitate

security. Lebanon's ambassador to Switzerland, Johnny Abdo, had completed booking and security arrangements, the announcement said, and participants were expected to arrive in Lausanne on Sunday to begin the talks at 10.30 a.m. on Monday.

State-run Beirut Radio said it was almost certain the talks would begin on Monday, but there was no official confirmation of the date. Opposition sources said it had been agreed in principle to meet on Monday, according to Reuters.

A first round of talks between President Gemayel and eight Muslim and Christian political leaders, aimed at a comprehensive political settlement to end nine years of civil war, was held in Geneva last November.

It broke up amid disagreement over the fate of the May 17 troop withdrawal agreement with Israel, which Mr. Gemayel's government cancelled Monday.

Most Lebanese politicians and newspapers welcomed the cancellation of the agreement, which gave Israel policing rights in South Lebanon and was opposed by Muslims and leftists as infringing on the sovereignty of an Arab Nation.

"I wish to express thanks and appreciation to President Gemayel and his government for this daring and blessed step," said ex-President Suleiman Franjeh, a leader of the Syrian-backed opposition "National Salvation

Front." The main dissenters to the abrogation decision were the mainly Christian right-wing "Lebanese Forces" militia which controls east Beirut and Christian ex-President Camille Chamoun, leader of the National Liberal Party.

Chamoun might attend talks

Mr. Chamoun opposed abrogation because Syria, which demanded it, has refused to withdraw its troops from Lebanon. The "Lebanese Forces" called it a submission to Syria and said rightists had a sacred duty to oppose Syrian dictates.

But Pierre Gemayel, father of the president and chief of the right-wing Falangist Party, said the abrogation was a "foregone conclusion" because the United States and the Beirut multinational peace-keeping force had turned their backs on Lebanon (Falangists have mixed reaction, page 2).

Lebanon's Christians should now learn the lesson that relying on outside forces would not work, Mr. Gemayel said. "We must rely on ourselves. This time we must find the right way to reach a solution."

Even Mr. Chamoun told journalists he might attend the Lausanne conference despite his opposition to abrogation of the accord, and would consider political reforms suggested there. "If it is politically sound, reasonable, why not?" he said.

Junblatt: Pact abrogation will not solve problems

By Affiah A. Kaloti
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Lebanese opposition leader Walid Junblatt Tuesday cautiously welcomed Lebanon's abrogation Monday of its May 17 troop withdrawal pact with Israel but said it was not the remedy for the strife-torn nation's internal problems.

Mr. Junblatt, who arrived in Amman Monday, told the Jordan Times that the abrogation of Lebanon's pact with Israel would serve to preserve the country's relations with the Arab World, but it cannot be considered as a step in the right direction to achieve "true national reconciliation."

Asked whether he would attend Lebanese national reconciliation talks scheduled to be opened Monday in Lausanne, Switzerland, Mr. Junblatt said he had not yet decided and that he had to consult his allies in the Syrian-backed "National Salvation Front" before reaching a decision.

Mr. Junblatt, leader of the Progressive Socialist Party (PSP), however, ruled out that the planned Lausanne talks would be a

resumption of the reconciliation talks held in Geneva in November 1983. "Our demands have changed since Geneva and the catastrophe in Lebanon," he said. The mainly Druze PSP holds Lebanon responsible for the army's attacks against Druze villages in the Shouf mountains. Mr. Junblatt said, and reiterated his call for a "fair trial for Gemayel for his crimes against the Lebanese people."

"Gemayel is responsible for over 4,000 refugees who have been left without homes because of the attacks on the southern suburbs of Beirut and Druze villages," he said.

The PSP leader asserted that the United States can no longer play a creative role in restoring peace to Lebanon and called for the inclusion of the Soviet Union in peace efforts.

"The U.S. has proved itself to be a complete failure," he said. Asked whether the abrogation of the May 17 pact would strengthen Israel's determination to stay on in Lebanon, Mr. Junblatt said: "Israel would do whatever it wants regardless of the pact."

Ramallah attack detainees suspected of 'TNT' links

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Police have detained several suspects in the shooting of a Palestinian bus in the occupied West Bank and investigators were working on the presumption that they were linked to a mysterious Jewish terrorist underground, police sources said Tuesday.

Questioning of the suspects could provide police with their first solid link to the terrorist movement, which calls itself "Terror Against Terror," or "TNT" by its Hebrew acronym.

News reports identified at least some of the suspects as U.S. citizens who now live in Israel.

Police spokesman Moshe Alexandroni confirmed that suspects had been detained in two separate incidents. The ambush of the bus near Ramallah on Sunday and the thwarted assault last month on the Muslim shrine of Al Aqsa Mosque.

"We are going on the presumption that there is a connection with TNT," said a police source who spoke on condition he was not identified.

Armed forces radio quoted

Rabbi Meir Kahane, leader of the militant Kach movement, as saying the seven suspects in the bus shooting were members of his organization.

Rabbi Kahane could not be reached to confirm the report, but in an earlier conversation with the Associated Press he declined any comment. Kach spokeswoman Barbara Ginzberg said earlier that Kach "has no connection with TNT, not that we disagree with what they are doing."

Israel Radio said four of the suspects were brought to court Tuesday to extend the order to hold them for questioning. Three others were released, it said.

Police declined to comment further, but some details emerged in the Israeli press and radio.

The reports said the seven suspects in the bus shooting were traced through their escape car and were detained only hours after the incident. The Yediot Aharanot newspaper said an Arab passenger identified five numbers on the license plate of what it said was a rented car.

Israel plans unilateral measures for 'security'

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli officials are moving quickly to study military police proposals for troop deployments in South Lebanon following Beirut's decision to abrogate the Israeli-Lebanese troop withdrawal accord, officials said Tuesday.

A senior official told reporters that the scrapping of last year's May 17 accord accelerated the need for a decision on "security" arrangements in South Lebanon, which Israel would take unilaterally without seeking a new agreement with Beirut.

A military source said the army had already submitted all its policy options and the final decision rested with the government.

Avi Pazner, spokesman for the prime minister, issued a statement denying that Israel would be prepared to renegotiate the scrapped accord or negotiate a new one in its place.

"Israel will now undertake by itself all necessary measures in South Lebanon to secure its northern border," he said.

The senior official said Israel held no grudge against Lebanese President Amin Gemayel or the Lebanese people who, he said, had been "raped" by the Syrians.

Israel is in dilemma over pact abrogation: Tel Aviv aiming at tacit agreement with Damascus, page 2

Cairo calls on Israel to renegotiate with Lebanon

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt Tuesday urged Israel to gloss over Lebanon's abrogation of its troop withdrawal agreement with the Jewish state and to accept alternative "security" arrangements in South Lebanon.

The call, couched in indirect terms, was made by Foreign Minister Kamal Hassan Ali in remarks to reporters on Monday's cancellation of the May 17 agreement.

"The circumstances in which that agreement was signed and the political realities prevailing in Lebanon gave the agreement a special nature," Mr. Ali said in an apparent reference to the presence of Syrian forces in Lebanon.

In its statement announcing abrogation, Mr. Ali said, the Lebanese government "showed interest in security arrangements in South Lebanon, and I believe this responds to the demands of all parties."

The Lebanese statement said the Beirut government "also decided to take the necessary steps towards security arrangements, security and stability in southern Lebanon, prevent infiltration across the southern border (with Israel) and bring about the withdrawal of Israeli forces from all Lebanese territory."

Mr. Ali said: "We believe what is important now is to concentrate on ways of establishing security and stability, consolidating Lebanese independence and sovereignty, bringing about the withdrawal of foreign forces and achieving a national reconciliation."

West Germany.

Mr. Reagan said after his White House talks with Dr. Kohl: I reconfirmed my willingness, eagerness to continue the effort to reach arms reduction agreements with the Soviet Union.

Both Chancellor Kohl and I agreed that, with new leadership in the Kremlin, an opportunity exists for real progress in relations between East and West."

A senior U.S. official said Mr. Chernenko appeared genuinely interested in dialogue.

Dr. Kohl was due to meet senators and other administration officials Tuesday before returning to



Israeli soldiers Tuesday patrol the harbour of the South Lebanese city of Sidon after explosions wounded 11 Israeli soldiers Sunday (AP wirephoto)

Iraqis begin major attack to retake Majnoon Island

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Iraq launched a massive attack on the oil-rich Majnoon Island in the marshlands of southern Iraq Tuesday in an attempt to recapture it from Iranian forces.

The man-made island, estimated to be sitting on billions of barrels of oil, has become a key focus of the three-and-a-half-year-old war since the Iranians occupied it in their latest string of offensives launched two weeks ago.

Iran has hinted it might consider the island's oil reserves as a substitute for the billions of dollars of reparations it demands from Iraq as a precondition for ending the war.

The island lies some three kilometres from the Iranian border, east of the River Tigris and about halfway between the Iraqi port of Basra to the south and the Iranian oil town of Ahvaz to the east.

Iraq's Defence Minister and Deputy Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Adnan Khairallah told reporters in Baghdad Tuesday his men had launched their counter-attack Tuesday morning.

"Majnoon is now witnessing a battle to kick the enemy from it," he said, pledging that the island "is a part of Iraq that we will not let any enemy soldier exist on."

Iran confirmed the Iraqi counter-attack but claimed Tuesday afternoon that the thrust on

the southern end of the island, had been repulsed.

The island lies in the Hawzah marshlands, a wilderness of swamps and reed clumps straddling the Iran-Iraq border.

An Iraqi commander said Monday Iraqi forces had encircled the island on three sides. In Tehran, a senior Iranian official had predicted fierce fighting as Iraq sought to retake the island.

Meanwhile in London, British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe said Tuesday he would fully support an international inquiry into Iranian charges that Iraq had used chemical weapons in recent fighting with Iran.

Mr. Howe, in a special statement issued by the Foreign Office, also once again denied Iranian allegations that Britain has supplied chemical weapons to Iraq.

"I would fully support any international inquiry into such allegations," Mr. Howe said, adding "the use of chemical weapons anywhere in the world deserves the strongest condemnation."

Iran has repeatedly charged that Britain has supplied Iraq with lethal chemical weapons.

A Foreign Office spokesman said Monday Britain had des-

stroyed its stock of chemical weapons in the late 1950s. Asked if Iraq could have obtained Iranian chemical weapons before that time, the spokesman said he did not know.

In Baghdad, Mr. Khairallah denied the use of chemical weapons. In an apparent reference to American use of defoliants in the Vietnam war, he spoke of "how the U.S. treated the Vietnamese people" and accused Washington of hypocrisy.

In New Delhi, officials of an Indian-owned cargo company said Monday that one of its ships was hit by a missile in the Gulf last Thursday.

"We presume it was an Iraqi missile since the ship was on charter to Iran," said Mohan Singh, spokesman for the Apeejay Shipping Company. "We're still waiting for more information but I don't think it sunk. I think it's being towed." He said all people aboard the ship were safe.

Iraq said last week it damaged a number of ships in the area, mostly Iranian, as part of a blockade of Iranian oil terminals in the Gulf — the latest threatened Iraqi action in the two nations' 42-month-old war.

U.S. expects new major Iranian offensive, page 2

Oman monitors Gulf navigation, page 5

Li, Zia call for Afghan, Kampuchean solutions

ISLAMABAD (Agencies) — Presidents Li Xianjian of China and Mohammad Zia Ul-Haq of Pakistan ended two days of talks here Tuesday in which they agreed on the need for political solutions in Afghanistan and Kampuchea.

The officials said the two leaders wanted the solutions to be based on a withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan and Vietnamese troops from Kampuchea.

The officials said there was a "complete identity of views" between Mr. Li and General Zia on all major international issues they discussed, including the Middle East and the Iran-Iraq war.

Mr. Li arrived Monday at the start of a four-nation tour that will also take him to Jordan, Turkey and Nepal.

Gen. Zia briefed Mr. Li on off-

orts made by Pakistan for an end to the Iran-Iraq conflict, the officials said.

They said both agreed that efforts should be continued to end the conflict.

During talks Monday and Tuesday, Gen. Zia was assisted by Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, Finance Minister Ghulam Ishaq Khan, Defence Minister Ali Ahmad Khan Talpur and Information Minister Raja Mohammad Zafarullah.

Vice Premier Tian Jiyun, Vice Foreign Minister Gong Depei, Vice Minister for Public Security Tao Siju and Vice Minister for Foreign Economic Relations and Trade Zheng Tuobin were present from the Chinese side.

Amman prepares to receive Chinese leader, page 3

Major tremor hits Japan

TOKYO (AP) — The sharpest tremor to strike this earthquake-prone nation in 16 years rocked central and northern Japan for a tense four minutes Tuesday. Officials said one woman died of "shock" but reported no significant damage or other casualties.

The quake registered 7.9 on the Richter scale, by definition a "major" quake. The Central Meteorological Agency said it was the first of that magnitude since 1968, when an earthquake in northern Japan killed 45 people.

Akira Hiromori, an official of the agency, told the Associated Press in a telephone interview that the quake's epicentre was 400 kilometres beneath the seabed and well off Japan's Pacific coast, all of which tended to blunt its impact on land.

The agency said Tuesday's quake, which came at 11:18 a.m. (0218 GMT) originated below the seabed near Torishima Island, a speck in the chain of volcanic islands that stretches some 1,600 kilometres south from Tokyo Bay.

In Tokyo, frightened office workers scrambled away from windows and elevators halted as tall and medium-height buildings rocked like boats for three to four minutes. Clocks and dishes fell from shelves, but the Central Meteorological Agency and Japan Broadcasting Corporation (NHK) said they had received no reports of serious damage.

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U.S. expects new major Iranian offensive in Gulf

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. intelligence has confirmed that Iran has massed up to half a million troops for a major new offensive against Iraq which could settle the Gulf war.

Defence officials said the offensive, spearheaded by regular troops and supported by thousands of young revolutionary guards, might start in the next few days.

They said Iraqi defences were heavily dug in along a line of trenches and bunkers protected by minefields, artillery, tanks and attack planes.

The State Department also said Monday it concluded the "available evidence" indicated that Iraq had used lethal chemical weapons in the 41-month-old war with Iran.

"The United States strongly condemns the prohibited use of chemical weapons wherever it occurs," it said.

The department also criticised Iran for refusing to end the war until Iraq's present government was ousted, saying the demand was "inconsistent with the accepted norms of behaviour among

nations."

It called on Iran to accept offers by other countries and international bodies to help to negotiate an end to the war.

The defence officials said the expected Iranian offensive was likely to decide whether the war continued and "who, if anyone, comes out the winner."

They said it was possible, but not certain, that Iran would seek a negotiated end to the war if its offensive failed.

If Iran's drive succeeded, which they considered unlikely, they said Iraq might make good its threats to attack Iranian oil installations including the key port on Kharg Island.

But they said the island was strongly fortified despite Iran's shortage of heavy guns and attacking planes were likely to suffer significant losses.

Iran has threatened to retaliate

for such an attack by closing the Gulf to oil tankers.

The defence officials who asked not to be identified said Iran had massed 400,000 to 500,000 troops, apparently for a major offensive against Iraq which could come in the next few days.

Iran has asked the United Nations to inspect what it called Iraq's use of chemical weapons on civilian areas in the Gulf war.

An Iranian soldier being treated for suspected chemical poisoning in a Swedish hospital died in Stockholm Monday two days after being flown in for treatment.

The 17-year-old youth was one of five Iranians wounded in the war against Iraq who were flown to Sweden at the weekend for treatment.

In Washington, officials said the views of the U.S. had been made known to Iraq. The United States has no formal diplomatic relations with Iraq but has said it is willing to establish such ties.

U.S. relations with Iran have been frozen since the takeover of the U.S. embassy in Tehran during former President Jimmy Carter's administration.

U.S. carrier to leave Lebanon area

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The aircraft carrier Independence is leaving Lebanon to take part in NATO exercises, reducing U.S. naval forces in the eastern Mediterranean to the lowest level in four months, Pentagon officials said Monday.

The officials would not say exactly when the Independence would leave for the North Atlantic but noted that the exercises called Teamwork '84 were already under way and were scheduled to end on March 22.

They said its departure would leave the John F. Kennedy as the only U.S. carrier off Lebanon for the first time since last November, shortly after a suicide bombing killed 241 American servicemen with the Multi-National Force in Beirut.

"There isn't anything in the cards to replace the Independence," one official said. But he said it might be sent back after the manoeuvres end, adding: "I'm sure it will be evaluated on a daily basis depending on the situation in the eastern Mediterranean."

U.S. troops were withdrawn from Lebanon to ships off the coast last month, and the American military role in the internal conflict there has been played down in recent weeks.

According to Pentagon officials, who asked to remain anonymous, there are now 12 U.S. naval ships off Lebanon.

This compares with about 20 U.S. Navy ships kept in the Lebanon area since last fall, when suicide bombing missions in the region sharply increased tensions and eventually led to U.S. naval gun-fire and air strikes against targets in Syrian-controlled areas of Lebanon. The U.S. Marine and French military posts were targets of suicide truck bombings on Oct. 23.

The U.S. Marine force of about 1,300 men was withdrawn from Beirut in late February and there are now between 200 and 300 U.S. military personnel to guard U.S. diplomatic buildings and train Lebanese troops.

Falangists have mixed reaction to abrogation of May agreement

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon's main Falangist militia has condemned Monday's government abrogation of the country's troop withdrawal agreement with Israel but others said the move was inevitable.

The Lebanese Forces militia said it rejected "the decision of submission that was imposed by the Syrian offensive on the Lebanese free people."

It called on all Christian groups to rally round a unified position that would guarantee them "freedom, security and dignity."

Leaders of the militia say a link with Israel is the only way to prevent Syria from dominating Lebanon.

They see no way to reconcile the

warring groups except by dividing the country into cantons ruled by different religious groups.

The Lebanese Forces militia has been active in the past to mobilise several thousand men and its gunmen have recently been increasingly in evidence in predominantly Christian areas of Beirut.

Former President Camille Chamoun, veteran leader of the Christian National Liberal Party, said last week he would boycott Mr. Gemayel's government if it abrogated the pact with Israel without securing a promise of Syrian withdrawal from Lebanon within 90 days.

Mr. Chamoun said his boycott

would mean he would refuse to attend new talks on national reconciliation, now planned to take place within a few days in Switzerland.

But his son, Dany, hinted Monday that the Chamoun stance might be softening. "We're not going to say we're not going," he said. But he added that he was not hopeful that the conference would achieve anything.

One major Christian group, the Falangist Party, headed by the president's father Pierre, has so far maintained its support for the government.

Pierre Gemayel said Monday the abrogation had been a foregone conclusion.

U.S. power in Lebanon reduced

WASHINGTON (R) — The power of the United States to affect events in Lebanon has been further diminished by the cancellation of the Israeli withdrawal accord it helped to negotiate.

The Lebanese government's long-expected cancellation Monday came eight days after the U.S. Marines pulled out of Beirut after a 17-month stay during which 262 of them were killed.

In response to the announcement, the State Department, while opposing partition of the country, came close to washing its hands of efforts to remove foreign troops from Lebanon.

"We regret this decision," U.S. State Department spokesman John Hughes said. "Those who were responsible for the rejection of the agreement must now bear the responsibility of finding an alternative negotiated formula to bring about the Israeli withdrawal."

Even before Monday, the United States was effectively on the sidelines in the Lebanon dispute as Saudi Arabia led efforts to reach a cease-fire and resolve the conflict.

Special Middle East Envoy Donald Rumsfeld remained at home while the U.S. aircraft carrier Independence prepared to leave Lebanon for NATO exercises in the North Atlantic.

Although the treaty was already effectively nullified by Syria's opposition, its abrogation was seen by U.S. officials as a victory for Damascus and a setback for Washington.

"Certainly Syria's influence in Lebanon appears to be on the upsurge. Everybody, except perhaps the Syrians, wanted the United States to remain involved in the region," Mr. Hughes said.

"The United States does not intend to abandon the people or the legitimate government of Lebanon."

The United States, he added, would continue to pursue its long-term goals of the restoration of a sovereign, independent and unified Lebanon, removal of all foreign forces and security for Israel's northern border.

Norwegian stores boycott Israeli goods

OSLO (Petra) — Oslo's Student Welfare Association (SWA) has forbidden its three department stores to sell goods produced in Israel.

Inger Prebensen, the association's managing director, personally stopped a special sale of Israeli oranges, grapefruit and vegetables.

The sale was planned as part of an "Israeli week" by the store operators, selling products bought at discount prices.

She said the board's original ground for deciding to boycott Israeli goods was that Israel is discriminating against Palestinian and Lebanese citizens living under occupation.

Hernu arrives in Saudi Arabia

DHAHRAN, Saudi Arabia (AP) — French Defence Minister Charles Hernu arrived here Tuesday for talks with the Saudi Arabian leadership on military co-operation as well as the situation in Lebanon and the Gulf war.

King Fahd and the rest of his cabinet are currently on a visit to the eastern province of the kingdom for dedication of several heavy industry projects.

Mr. Hernu came from Kuwait where he said he discounted the eventuality of an immediate withdrawal of France's troops from embattled Beirut, insisting that such a pullout be "honourable and fruitful."

Mr. Hernu made his statement to reporters shortly before winding up a three-day visit here, where he held military and political co-operation talks with Kuwaiti leaders.

The French minister, leading a high-powered, 18-man delegation then flew to Riyadh, where he was to hold similar talks with the Saudi Arabian leadership.

He said that France "accepts" Lebanon's abrogation of its U.S.-mediated agreement with Israel.

The agreement, signed last May 17, calls mainly for the withdrawal of Israeli and other foreign troops from Lebanon.

"The May 17 agreement should have been ratified by (Lebanon's) parliament, but that did not happen," said Mr. Hernu in French, through an Arab interpreter. "We have to accept things the way they happened."

Responding to a question, Mr. Hernu dismissed as inappropriate the term "withdrawal" of French peace troops in Lebanon.

"The Americans have withdrawn their Marines (from Lebanon). As did the Italians and the

British, leaving the French (troops) there," he said. "We cannot describe the return of the French troops to France as a withdrawal. This applies to the 1,200 troops in Beirut and the (French) force with the U.N. in southern Lebanon."

He insisted that the French troops would leave Lebanon only in an "honourable manner and without jeopardising security and stability" in that country.

Mr. Hernu told reporters that French Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson returned to Paris from Beirut Monday after discussing with the Lebanese leadership the "circumstances that (will) govern the return of the French troops" to France.

Mr. Cheysson, he said, discussed this return of the French troops with a view to preparing for such a pullout in a manner that retains the "dignity of the French force, and its close co-ordination with the Lebanese diplomacy."

His words were interpreted here as an insistence that the withdrawal be effected only after the Lebanese have achieved detente among their bickering factional leaders.

Mr. Hernu said that the French troops in Lebanon "had a role very much similar to that of the American, Italian and British contingents."

"But historically France is bound to Lebanon in very special relations. What is happening in Lebanon cannot possibly be treated with indifference by France."

He refused to assess the role of the U.S. Marines and the British and Italian forces in Lebanon.

"I can only say that each (contingent) played its role and suffered losses in human lives," he said. "The Americans lost about 250 lives."

Mr. Hernu said that France

supported efforts underway by the six-nation Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) to create a Rapid Deployment Force for the defence of the oil-rich region. He promised that France would supply that force with all equipment that it might be needing.

The GCC groups Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Qatar and Oman in a regional economic integration and collective defence pact.

"We are fully prepared to equip that force," he said.

Asked about France's efforts to arrange a mediation bid between warring Iraq and Iran, Mr. Hernu said: "That conflict transcends the borders of the two countries. France has been working through the U.N. for a solution" to that war.

He said that the European Community states were to play a "more tangible role" between Iraq and Iran.

"France has strong and old relations of friendship with Iraq, but that does not mean that we are enemies of Iran," Mr. Hernu said. "However, our relations with Tehran are not as good as we desire them to be."

He excluded chances Iran might make good its threats to block the Strait of Hormuz at the mouth of the Gulf.

"I don't think we have reached, or even have come near to that stage, because blocking the Hormuz would not be as easy as some seem to think," he said. "I don't want to precede events. But if the Hormuz were closed, then France would not venture into any action without prior consultation with the Gulf states."

Mr. Hernu visited the Ali Al Salem Airbase earlier in the day, where "I saw that (Kuwaiti) Air Force personnel enjoy a high efficiency" in handling planes.

Israelis in dilemma as Lebanon scraps pact

OCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Lebanon's abrogation of its troop withdrawal agreement with Israel, although expected, has caused anger and bitterness in Israel and posed major new problems for Israeli defence and foreign policy.

Officials said the cabinet was expected to meet soon to consider a response and Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said bitterly that the abrogation was a death sentence for Lebanese sovereignty.

The agreement, drawn up last May with the help of the United States, called for Israeli troop withdrawal from Lebanon, an end to the state of war that has existed between the two countries since 1948, joint patrols in South Lebanon and the beginning of normal relations.

The pact had been endorsed by the Lebanese cabinet and parliament but not signed by President Amin Gemayel and never formally ratified.

Mr. Shamir described Lebanon's decision, which followed discussions between Mr. Gemayel and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, as a surrender to the dictates of Damascus.

Israel appeared unsure of its next step though many members of the government and opposition agreed that it must reject the Lebanese action and refuse to re-open negotiations with Beirut.

Communications Minister Mordechai Zupor said: "We will not scrap the agreement and we will not have any more deals with the present Lebanese government."

Tourism Minister Avraham Shari underlined Israel's chief fear and objection to the abrogation when he said it "establishes a dangerous precedent. How can we ever enter into future

agreements with the Arabs if they can be allowed to discard them at will?"

Opposition Labour Party Leader Shimon Peres said Israel should ignore the Lebanese action and implement its own security measures in South Lebanon.

But a leading member of Mr. Shamir's dominant Likud Party, Ehud Olmert, said "some tacit understandings might be reached with the Lebanese and particularly the Syrians on a mutual reduction of troops in Lebanon and unofficial Syrian undertakings to prevent terrorist crossings into Israel."

Israeli officials said there had been "some feelers from the Lebanese about relations" after the agreement but they had not been clear.

The Lebanese government announcement spoke of arrangements to guarantee security

and stability in South Lebanon but Mr. Shamir said the abrogation showed the Lebanese government was incapable of preventing the south become a "terrorist base."

A senior Israeli official who spoke on condition he not be named said the government will look at a range of options in the next two weeks for a possible redeployment of its troops. "The Gemayel decision will accelerate the decision making process by Israel," he said.

The government did not want to redeploy its forces before the May 17, 1983 Lebanon-Israel accord was nullified "so as not to present the Lebanese government with a fait accompli (established fact), the official said. "Now that they have surrendered, we will make our own decision."

Israeli forces are currently deployed along the Awali River, 56 kilometres north of the border,

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TV & RADIO	
JORDAN TELEVISION	BBC WORLD SERVICE
630, 720, 1413 KHz	06:00 Newsday 06:30 Wavaguide 06:40
17:30 Koran	06:45 Newsday 06:55 Financial News
17:40 Cartoons	06:55 Newsday 07:00 World News
18:05 Children's Programmes	07:00 Newsday 07:05 World News
18:30 Mickey Mouse Club	07:05 Newsday 07:10 World News
18:55 Sherlock Holmes	07:10 Newsday 07:15 World News
19:20 Programme Review	07:15 Newsday 07:20 World News
19:30 News in Arabic	07:20 Newsday 07:25 World News
20:00 Arabic Series	07:25 Newsday 07:30 World News
20:30 Local Programme	07:30 Newsday 07:35 World News
21:30 Varieties	07:35 Newsday 07:40 World News
22:30 News in Arabic	07:40 Newsday 07:45 World News
23:10 News in Arabic	07:45 Newsday 07:50 World News
FOREIGN CHANNEL	07:50 Newsday 07:55 World News
18:00 French Programme	07:55 Newsday 08:00 World News
19:00 News in French	08:00 Newsday 08:05 World News
19:30 News in Hebrew	08:05 Newsday 08:10 World News
20:00 News in Arabic	08:10 Newsday 08:15 World News
20:30 House Calls	08:15 Newsday 08:20 World News
21:00 Science International	08:20 Newsday 08:25 World News
21:10 Rally - Eps. 11	08:25 Newsday 08:30 World News
22:00 News in English	08:30 Newsday 08:35 World News
22:15 Strike Force: Eps. 11	08:35 Newsday 08:40 World News
RADIO JORDAN	08:40 Newsday 08:45 World News
855 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM	08:45 Newsday 08:50 World News
Party on 95.60 KHz, SW	08:50 Newsday 08:55 World News
07:00 Light Music	08:55 Newsday 09:00 World News
07:30 Newsday	09:00 Newsday 09:05 World News
08:00 Morning Show	09:05 Newsday 09:10 World News
08:30 News Summary	09:10 Newsday 09:15 World News
08:55 Morning Show	09:15 Newsday 09:20 World News
09:00 Pop Session	09:20 Newsday 09:25 World News
09:30 News Summary	09:25 Newsday 09:30 World News
09:55 Pop Session	09:30 Newsday 09:35 World News
10:00 News Bulletin	09:35 Newsday 09:40 World News
10:30 News Bulletin	09:40 Newsday 09:45 World News
10:55 Oh! Mother	09:45 Newsday 09:50 World News
11:00 News Summary	09:50 Newsday 09:55 World News
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24:00 News Summary	13:05 Newsday 13:10 World News

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

- * Turkish handicrafts, paintings and copperware exhibition at the San Rook Hotel.
- * "Photos exhibition on Romania at the Plastic Artists Association at Jabel Lebewideh at 4:30 p.m.
- * Turkish embroidery and paintings exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- * "Contribution Française à l'archéologie Jordanienne" starts at the University of Jordan's library at 5:00 p.m.
- * "Multiple" an Italian exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre at 6:00 p.m.
- * "Le Chamber day", starts at the French Cultural Centre at 4:00 p.m.
- * "L'Ordinaire des pompes funebres", starts at the French Cultural Centre at 7:30 p.m.

VIDEO

- * "Le Chamber day", starts at the French Cultural Centre at 4:00 p.m.

FILM

- * "L'Ordinaire des pompes funebres", starts at the French Cultural Centre at 7:30 p.m.

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre - Tel: 6610267
 American Centre 44371
 American Centre Library 41520
 British Council 36147-8
 French Cultural Centre 37009
 Goethe Institute 41993
 Soviet Cultural Centre 44205
 Spanish Cultural Centre 24049
 French Cultural Centre 30777
 Hays Arts Centre 665195
 Hussein Youth City 667181
 Y.W.C.A. 41793
 Y.W.M.A. 664251
 Amman Municipal Library 36111
 University of Jordan Library 443555

MUSEUMS

Palatide Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 17th

centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 51760.
 Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabel gub' and (Jabal Ghudid). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.
 Jordan National Galleries: Contains a collection of paintings, mosaics, and sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalist artists. (Musarraf Jabel Lebewideh. Opening hours: 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 36128.
 Maryam Memorial Library (Memorial): Collection of military memorabilia dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916. Sports City, Amman. Opening hours 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Closed Saturdays. Tel. 664340.
 Popular: Life of Jordan Museum: 1701 to 15th year old items such as costumes, weapons, musical instruments, etc. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 37169.

CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabel Amman, tel. 2459.
 Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabel Lebewideh, 37440.
 De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabel Hussein, 661757.
 Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Jabel: 2354.
 Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabel Amman, 41559.
 Anglican Catholic Church Ashrafieh, 71331.
 Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, 71331.
 St. Epiphanius Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh, 71751.

PRAYER TIMES

5:43aFajr
05:56Shura (Sunrise) Shura
11:48Dhuhr
15:06'Asr
17:36Maghrib
19:49Isha

Amman prepares welcome for Chinese president

AMMAN (J.T.) — Decorative signs, posters and flags welcoming the Chinese President Li Xianmin to Jordan appeared in the streets and main squares of the capital Tuesday in preparation for President Li's arrival here Thursday.

President Li, who is paying a visit to Jordan from March 8 to 13 at the invitation of His Majesty King Hussein, will be accompanied by his wife Lin Jianmei.



Li Xianmin

Vice-Premier of the State Council Tian Jiyun, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs Gong Dafei and Vice-Minister of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade Zheng Tuobin.

Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor will host a dinner for their Chinese guests Thursday evening.

The president and his accompanying delegation will tour a number of sites and centres in the country while the president's wife will visit several health and social institutions in Jordan.

A spokesman for the information department of the Chinese Foreign Ministry said that the purpose of President Li's visit is to promote mutual understanding, to deepen friendship and to expand co-operation between China and Jordan.

President Li will exchange views with King Hussein on the development of Sino-Jordanian co-operation and relations as well as on international questions, especially on the situation in the Middle East and other issues of common concern, the spokesman said.



Prime Minister Ahmad 'Obeidat cuts the ribbon during the inauguration ceremony of Jordan Electricity Authority's new centre Tuesday (Petra photo)

Drug smuggler given eight years in prison

AMMAN (Petra) — The military governor Tuesday endorsed the court martial verdicts and sentences against three Jordanians for drug and fraud offences.

According to the proceedings, Sami Ahmad Salim will be imprisoned for eight years with hard labour, in addition to paying a fine of JD 5,000, for the smuggling and possession of a dangerous drug.

hashish.

Ali Abdul Karim Mousa Mir'e Al Salman was sentenced to three years in prison with hard labour for embezzling public funds, while Hamed Shihdeh Hamed Abu Jundaid was sentenced to two months in prison, and a fine of JD 10 for having offered a bribe, which was refused, to a public servant to perform an illegal act.

ACDRAT to co-ordinate Hammad Basin scheme

AMMAN (J.T.) — The development of the Hammad Basin, which borders Iraq, Syria, Jordan and Saudi Arabia, has been discussed over the past three days here by Jordanian officials and representatives from the Arab Centre for the Study of Dry Regions and Arid Territories (ACDRAT).

ACDRAT Director Mohammad Al Khatib and the project's Director Nabil Rafael discussed the subject at meetings with Agriculture Minister Mohammad Bashir, National Planning Council Director Omar Abdullah and Water Authority Director Mohammad Al Keilani.

A comprehensive review of the studies which specialists and agricultural experts have carried out regarding the development of the basin took place at the meetings, according to Thun Al Kafal Ghoshe, ACDRAT's wheat department director.

He said that ACDRAT and the four countries concerned will co-ordinate plans to develop the basin agriculturally, economically and socially.

Mr. Keilani told the Jordan Times that the implementation of the project is expected to start sometime next year.

The area of the basin, he said, is estimated at 22 square kilometres and each of the four countries will be charged with developing that part of the basin within their own territory.

TCC seminar helps introduce new technology

AMMAN (J.T.) — A two-day technical seminar by the Swedish firm L.M. Ericsson concluded here Tuesday. The seminar was hosted by the Telecommunications Corporation (TCC).

President of the TCC Mohammad Sha'Id Ismail told the Jordan Times Tuesday that the seminar was held on the request of L.M. Ericsson.

He said that the TCC welcomed the idea of holding such a technical seminar in Amman with the objective of acquainting TCC engineers and all other interested parties with the Swedish AXE switching system and its capabilities to serve as a switching mode in an Integrated Service Digital Network (ISDN).

Mr. Ismail said that the papers presented at the seminars centred on the evolution in public information handling networks, circuit switched data, packet switching and other broad-band conditions.

The seminar constitutes one of the TCC's activities to introduce new technology and know-how to Jordanian engineers in every way possible and attainable, he said.

Chamber talks discuss trade with France

AMMAN (Petra) — Means of promoting economic and commercial relations between Jordan and France and establishing joint projects were discussed Monday during a meeting at the Amman Chamber of Commerce, Commerce and members of the Federation of the Jordanian Chambers of Commerce (FJCC), and the Amman Chamber of Industry on the one hand, and the Franco-Arab Chamber of Commerce delegation which is currently on a visit to Jordan.

Chairman of the FJCC, Hamdi Al Tabba'a, paid tribute to the commercial role of the French, and described it as "active and supportive of the Arab causes."

He also praised the trade relations between his country and France, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

Head of the French delegation, Mr. Michael Habib, lauded the economic relations between his country and Jordan and paid tribute to the Jordanian citizen, whom he described as highly-qualified, Petra concluded.

U.N. agriculture, food conference to open Sunday

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will take part in the seventh regional conference of the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) which is due to open in the North Yemeni capital of Sana'a Sunday.

Jordan's delegation to the conference will be led by Ministry of Agriculture Under-Secretary Salem Al Lawzi, according to a ministry spokesman.

He said that the four-day conference will discuss a number of subjects connected with food security in the Middle East region.

All Arab countries are expected to be represented at the conference, he said.

'Obeidat inaugurates new JEA nerve centre

Control centre to ensure electricity supply constant

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Ahmad 'Obeidat Tuesday inaugurated the National Electrical Control Centre (NECC) which monitors and controls power transformer and generator stations around the country.

Following the opening ceremony, Mr. 'Obeidat toured the centre's sections and was briefed by Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) Director-General Hisham Al Khatib on the services and the responsibilities of the centre.

NECC controls power grids from Irbid in the north to Aqaba in the south and also carries out technical repair work at transformer and generator stations, Dr. Khatib said.

The prime minister praised the efforts of JEA technicians and officials and expressed his deep satisfaction with their achievement.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sulaiman Arar, Ministers of Industry, Trade and Tourism, Finance, Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment as well as National Planning Council President Omar Abdullah Dakhlan, directors of electricity companies in Amman and Irbid and other officials.

Later, the prime minister chaired a meeting of the ministerial development committee at the centre to review the general electricity situation in the country and the various power projects being undertaken by JEA.

Rural electrification

Among the major topics discussed was the electrification of rural regions undertaken by JEA and the Amman and Irbid electricity companies.

Agreement was reached at the meeting that 480 villages will be supplied with electricity during 1984.

These villages are inhabited by 891,000 people and they constitute 33 per cent of the total population in Jordan's rural regions.

In 1985, a total of 549 villages

are scheduled to be supplied with electricity.

Also discussed at the meeting was co-ordination of work among various departments for speeding up the implementation of the electrification projects.

JEA Public Relations Director Marzouq Al Hadid told the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, that the centre, which cost JD 1.5 million, was established to provide a constant supply of electricity to all parts of the Kingdom.

The centre is operated and maintained by a team of Jordanian technicians who employ a computer system in monitoring and controlling the various stations, Mr. Hadid said.

He added that the centre will ensure that consumers, factories, companies and other institutions will have a constant supply of electricity around the clock.

Parliament to appoint new Jerusalem deputy

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Lower House of Parliament will hold a regular session Thursday to elect a deputy for the vacant seat of Jerusalem.

The seat became vacant two weeks ago after the death of its occupant Mr. Emile Al Ghouri.

Five nominees from Jerusalem will contest the seat. The nominees are Mr. Fuad Faraj (a former cabinet member), Dr. Subeil Khouri, Mr. George Nuzha, Mr.

Konstantine Theodori and Mr. Bassem Mubarak.

The House will also discuss a number of laws and will refer them to the Legal Committee for a detailed study.

Prime Minister Ahmad 'Obeidat is expected to brief the members on the results of last week's round of talks between Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

No drinking water crisis this summer, says Water Authority director-general

AMMAN (J.T.) — The drinking water situation for this summer is good despite the fact that the quantity of rain which has fallen in Jordan this winter is so low, according to the director-general of the Water Authority, Mr. Mohammad Saleh Al Keilani.

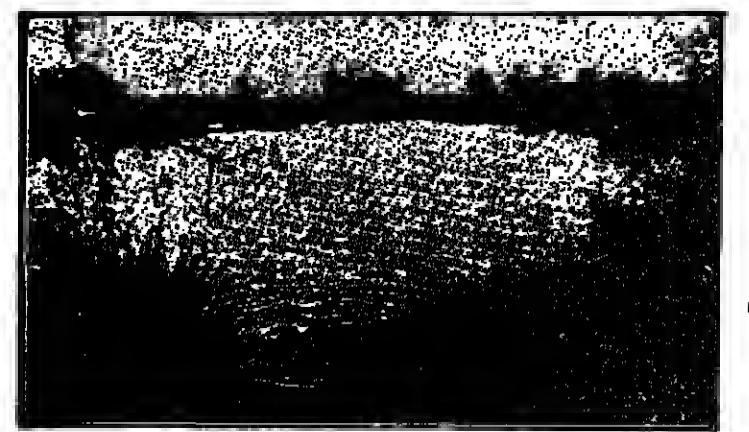
Mr. Keilani, who was speaking in an interview with Al Ra'i Arabic daily newspaper, added that the water pumped to houses will not be affected by the drought, because the ground water available is sufficient.

The Water Authority, said Mr. Keilani, has started to pump water continuously on a daily basis to Salt and a study is underway to provide Irbid, with the same service, it is hoped within two months.

Tariff invoices

In answer to a question about the water consumption invoice, Mr. Keilani indicated that the current water tariff is a method of control to curb the wastage of water.

The reason behind the adoption of this tariff, continued Mr. Keilani, is not commercial because the authority is not motivated by considerations of profit.



The Azraq Oasis which is the only permanent body of water serving that part of the Kingdom (J.T. file photo)

Mr. Keilani went on to say that fees collected for the consumption of water cover only a proportion of the recurrent costs of the authority. In fact, he said, 95 per cent of the people do not complain about the charge, noting that there are 200,000 subscribers in Jordan, 75,000 of whom live in Amman.

"The complaints we receive are all attributable to the accumulation of unsettled invoices or the cracking of water pipes, which cause leakages of water," he said.

Mr. Keilani said that his attention is now being directed at services provided in the populous residential areas where there are no complaints about water invoices in view of the limited consumption of water.

Mr. Keilani went on to say: "None of the houses in these areas pay more than 100 fils per day for their water. This small amount does not constitute a financial burden."

Mr. Keilani said that the authority will work on the electrification of water pumps fitted

to the artesian wells to replace existing diesel ones in order to ensure continuous pumping.

Then, he added, the wells will be sealed and there will be no need for workers to oversee the pumping which in turn will eliminate most of the problems.

Water purification

In answer to a question about the purification stations, Mr. Keilani said that a detailed study is currently underway aimed at constructing purification stations in various parts of Jordan.

Tenders for such stations will be invited next year, he added.

Concerning the purification station of sewerage in the Baqa'a area, a tender will be floated to implement this project in 1985, Mr. Keilani said.

Mr. Keilani also said that a major plan to connect all cities and residential areas with a population of more than 3,000 people according to the 1979 census to sewers will also be considered.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Lawzi meets foreign envoys

AMMAN (Petra) — Senate President Ahmad Lawzi Tuesday received separately the ambassadors in Amman of the United Kingdom, Alan Urwick, the Socialist Republic of Romania, Andrei Cervencovici, and Austria, Arnold Voebius. During these meetings, discussions were held on strengthening bilateral relations between these countries and Jordan especially in developing co-operation between Jordan's parliament and the parliaments of those Britain, Romania and Austria.

Fayez, Tunisian envoy discuss agenda

AMMAN (Petra) — Lower House of Parliament Speaker Akel Al Fayez Tuesday morning received the Tunisian Ambassador in Amman, Marwan Ibn Al Arabi and reviewed with him the agenda of the Afro-Arab Parliamentary Union Conference to be held in the Tunisian capital city on March 11.

U.S. grain imports dominate talks

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Supply Ibrahim Ayyoub Tuesday discussed with the American Ambassador in Amman Richard Vics co-operation between the two countries in the field of trade, especially concerning the import of grain from the United States. The meeting was attended by the Economic and Agricultural counsellors at the American Embassy here.

Bashir permits entry of W.Bank produce

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Agriculture Mohammad Bashir has permitted the entry of cucumbers grown in plastic green houses from the Tulkarem area in the occupied West Bank from Tuesday until the middle of April. He also agreed that tomatoes from Beit Dajan area in Nablus also on the West Bank should be admitted from Tuesday until the end of March.

Police officers complete training

AMMAN (Petra) — Police officers who took part in two different levels of training at the Police Officers Training Institute graduated Tuesday at a ceremony held under the patronage of Public Security Director Mohammad Idris. Altogether 49 officers took part in the nine-week courses in which they received theoretical and practical training in various types.

Young people feel that couples should share marriage costs

AMMAN (J.T.) — Marriage costs are becoming prohibitively high nowadays and young people have begun to complain about this problem, thus resulting in an unwillingness as the part of youngsters to get married. Consequently young men have started asking their prospective partners to share the marriage expenses hoping that they will respond to this appeal. What do male and female youths think of this social issue? Several members of the two sexes were interviewed and they expressed their opinions as follows:

Participation

Mohammad Odeh Al Issawi says that if the girl's financial situation is good, it does not matter if she contributes and shares in the marriage costs and in setting up the home. The Prophet's sayings, the Koran's verses and Islam itself all highlight the value of co-operation and encourage marriage with no regard to the financial side, he said.

and education of the man being more important than his wealth, Miss Nimri concluded.

Mr. Ammar Mohammad Al Khatib said that in this age of equality when the girl is likely to have a job she should take her share of the responsibility in paying for the marriage.

Miss Sawson Tannous asks why the girl is not expected to contribute towards the costs of marriage since the home will be hers as well, and her husband will be hers also. The important thing, she says, is the understanding between the young man and his girl and all other considerations being of only secondary importance.

Parents should not interfere except if this interference is in the interest of both parties, Miss Tannous continued, urging society to change its norms so as to reduce the high marriage costs by such extravagances as parties, jewellery and luxurious clothes.

Ibrahim Hassan 'Eweis also says that one of the major factors discouraging people from getting married is the high cost. Therefore he thinks that the girl should share directly in the costs of the marriage. He also criticised the practice of organising parties in luxury hotels.

The monotheistic religions emphasise the building of married life based on charity and stability eschewing all causes of tension and anxiety which might spoil married life, he said.

Expensive dowry

Mrs. Samiha 'Amayreh app-

called to all girls to contribute towards marriage costs. The girl's participation, she said, would encourage youths to get married and this should not be regarded as shameful.

The contribution of the girls could be manifested in a reduction in the high costs of the dowry, she pointed out, as happiness does not lie in the amount of gold and money involved.

Michael Haddadin believes that there are two ways of contributing, the direct and the indirect. The former is not feasible, he believes, and will have negative consequences for the wife and the husband in the future "because we live in a conservative society that has its own customs and traditions." Man's sense of dignity, he pointed out, rejects this types of contribution.

Mr. Haddadin said that in this case a young man would become tempted to seek a wealthy girl who owns many cars and buildings without being concerned or satisfied with the girl's personality. Such a basis for marriage could have disastrous social implications, according to Mr. Haddadin.

The other type of contribution, he adds, which is the most desirable, proper and reasonable is the minimising of unnecessary expenditure.

Our girls nowadays are educated and aware enough to distinguish between what is wrong and what is right and thus will want a promising future and a happy family based on love, faithfulness and equality. They will thus turn away from such ost-



Two women in traditional costume take part in a marriage celebration in Jordan where many young people feel that the costs involved are prohibitive (J.T. file photo).

entation and vulgar conspicuous consumption, Mr. Haddadin concluded.

Sacred bondage

Sabah Yousef advocates that the girl should contribute to marriage costs and says that the two parties will strengthen their bonds through this sort of joint financial commitment.

The right beginning, she says is the way to make a good marriage

and "we are in a pressing need for happy families to create a happy generation who will believe in good citizenship through co-operation within the framework of society," she said.

Both male and females are fraught over the rising cost of marriage, Miss Yousef concluded.

Romel Dahabri has a different opinion and says that he is against the girl sharing in the marriage costs though if all women work this would then be right and pro-

per. Nahida Sele' supports the idea of the girl sharing in the marriage cost because the girl essentially seeks a happy house which will make for a stable life. She is therefore willing to invest in making such a future, she said.

The person interviewed was Adeil Jarrar who said the girl is not a commodity that can be sold or purchased. Society should understand that the girl's contribution to the marriage costs does not disgrace men, she said.

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Shmeisani, Wadi Sagra Circle
Tel. 671375

By Tara Bradford

MIDDLE EAST HORIZON

What light is that at the tunnel end?

"I can't resist using that old image, that the light you see at the end of the tunnel may be the train coming towards you." — George M. Shultz, in response to a reporter's question about U.S. withdrawal from Lebanon.

RONALD REAGAN has done it again. With the withdrawal of American contingents of the Multinational Force (MNF) from Lebanon, leaving the Lebanese government seemingly in worse shape than when the Marines arrived, Mr. Reagan has managed to create the biggest foreign policy debacle since the Iranian hostage crisis.

Indeed U.S.-European partners, shortly before they, too, departed from Lebanon questioned whether or not the U.S. had any foreign policy at all left. A very good question for which a very good answer in this year's presidential election.

The Reagan administration's foreign policy is in such shambles that it is difficult to believe anyone can take the statements of the president, his advisers or staff any seriously; especially since they often contradict each other, sometimes on the same day.

In February, Mr. Reagan said congressional Democrats calling for the removal of MNF troops from Lebanon were advocating "surrender." He

also remarked there was no reason for the U.S. "to turn our backs on our friends and cut and run." Two weeks later, questioned about the abrupt "redeployment" of the Marines to ships off the Lebanese coast, Mr. Reagan replied, "We're not bugging out. We're just going to a little more defensible position."

Yet in spite of these defensive assertions, it is obvious that Mr. Reagan, worried about possible ramifications of his reckless pursuit down blind avenues in Lebanon to his reelection bid, has quite simply "turned tail and run."

Of course, both Mr. Reagan and Secretary of State George Shultz have publicly denied such accusations, insisting that the Marine presence offshore "represents a continuing U.S. presence there." Mr. Shultz has also told reporters the administration stands by its policy of "trying to bring about, as best we can, the removal of all foreign forces from Lebanon and the emergence of a sovereign Lebanon in charge of its own territory and with arrangements that insure the security of Israel's northern border."

der."

Ha! Wishful thinking... Who are they kidding? How can the Marines maintain that sort of support if they are confined to ships? Mr. Shultz's enlightening response is: "They're not there to undertake a military mission, but... in the event that something happens, that will make it desirable for them to be used in a manner such as they were used in the first place (referring to the U.S. role in evacuating the Palestine Liberation Organisation from Beirut)."

"Now what may happen in Lebanon, we don't know," Mr. Shultz continued. "But it may be that there will be a good purpose of that kind which the Marines will be called upon to serve."

There's that image of the U.S. as global policeman again, when in actuality, America failed miserably in trying to shield Lebanese President Amin Gemayel's Maronite Christian regime from Muslim and "Druze" militia.

The price of the American folly in Lebanon has been sky high: 265 American Marines dead; 134 wounded and financial expenditure exceeding \$120 million. In addition, the cost reflects a major setback for U.S. Middle East policy (if

there really is one of the Reagan administration) and for America's credibility in the eyes of an increasingly sceptical world.

And the price for Lebanon? If the government weathers the storm, it will be with embarrassingly painful concessions on the part of Mr. Gemayel. The Lebanese government has already abrogated the May 17 pact calling for pull-out of Israeli troops from Lebanon in exchange for Lebanese concessions on political and security arrangements in troubled southern Lebanon.

The abrogation represents yet another blow to U.S. diplomacy since the agreement's chief mediator was Secretary of State Shultz.

According to Syria's ambassador to the U.S., Rafik Jouejati, Syrian-backed opposition factions in Lebanon will accept a national government under Gemayel if he does not uphold the U.S.-negotiated accord.

A resolution calling for a United Nations peacekeeping force in Lebanon was vetoed by the Soviet Union last week at a special Security Council session. The plan, proposed by France on Feb. 23, urged an immediate ceasefire among warring factions and requested

U.N. Secretary General Perez de Cuellar make arrangements for enabling the Beirut Observer Force currently deployed to monitor compliance with the cease-fire. The resolution also requested deployment of a U.N. peace-keeping force comprised of contingents from countries not permanent members of the Security Council and, if appropriate, contingents of the 5,700 man U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) currently stationed in southern Lebanon.

During consultations prior to the Security Council vote, the Soviet Union had placed a number of crippling conditions on the French-sponsored proposal, including a demand that all MNF contingents be removed, as well as the retreat beyond gun range of all supporting naval vessels now lying off the coast. The Soviet envoy also said the MNF countries must provide written guarantees not to interfere in Lebanese affairs and that the U.N. forces be financed through voluntary contributions, rather than a levy on all U.N. members.

The Lebanese government had approved in principle the Security Council resolution draft establishing a U.N. force in Lebanon, but wanted the

force not to be restricted to the Beirut area. "...this force must be effective to help us to go throughout Lebanon to insure our sovereignty and authority," noted Lebanese Ambassador to the U.N. Rachid Fakhoury.

But Mr. Fakhoury also voiced concern about the potential effectiveness of such a U.N. peacekeeping force. "If the Multinational Force cannot do anything, do you think the U.N. can do it (keep the peace)?" he asked.

One Western diplomat has said privately the Soviet Union used its veto power in the Security Council because the resolution did not serve Syria's interests in the region. Syria has long been perceived by the West, particularly the Reagan administration, as a Soviet satellite.

But whatever the reasons behind the Soviet move, no one can overlook the failure of Mr. Reagan's foreign policy in Lebanon. I only hope the American public will wake up in time to realise the inherent danger of allowing any future administration a repetition of the costly mistakes by the Reagan administration that could escalate into war and tragedy for everyone involved...

The way out

THE FAILURE of Iran's latest offensive against Iraq is unlikely to deter Ayatollah Khomeini and his followers from further shedding their countrymen's blood and resources, and it is doubtful whether successive defeats on the battlefield will be enough to make Tehran change its mind about pursuing its declared war aims. In fact, new Iranian preparations are reported to be already underway to launch even bigger attacks than the latest ones.

Just how much more blood will have to be spilt before peace can be established between the two Muslim states, it is difficult to say. But one thing is clear: Iraq and Iran have had enough, and it must be understood by both sides, particularly by the Iranians, that no military solution exists for their problems.

We all know that for an Iraq-Iran settlement to be reached, the war must end with no illegitimate gains for either country. Baghdad has repeatedly said that if Tehran accepts Iraq's territorial integrity and non-interference in Iraqi internal affairs it is willing to sit and negotiate without any prior conditions. And at one point President Saddam Hussein offered to go personally to Tehran to hold direct negotiations with the Iranian leaders. Regrettably, however, Khomeini's attitude has not been as positive, and he still insists on the overthrow of the Iraqi government as one pre-condition to end the conflict in the Gulf.

Amid all the bloodshed and destruction in the 40-month-old war, comes the even more dangerous attitude by some Arab states, namely Syria and Libya. It is not enough that President Assad and Col. Qadhafi will not use their "comradely" influence with the ayatollahs of Tehran to stop the killing of fellow Arabs and Muslims, these two states actually send weapons to Iran to continue its mad war against the Iraqi people and territory, publicly sharing Khomeini's view that there can not be a settlement in the Gulf except through the overthrow of President Hussein.

For how much longer the rest of us Arabs can continue to watch this ugly scene, and for how much longer the Iranian people themselves and the rest of the world can tolerate this horrible sight of blood and destruction, and for no good reason at all, is anybody's guess. But surely there is a way out, and the destruction of Iran's only outlet for exporting oil at Kharg seems to be the nearest possibility. Iraq should do it, if there is no other way.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: A hard fought victory

ON MONDAY the Lebanese government announced its abrogation of the Israeli-Lebanese agreement, a step that is bound to put everything in its proper perspective. The abrogation marks a victory for the Lebanese people who achieved it against all forms of conspiracies designed to destroy their country's independence.

The agreement had been regarded as a reward for Israel for its invasion of Lebanon, and a way of strengthening the ties between the Israelis and certain isolationist forces in Lebanon. That agreement was a capitulation to the enemy.

The agreement would not have been scrapped had the opposition not shown solid resistance and put up a struggle that cost Lebanon thousands of dead and wounded. The opposition has fought hard to scrap the agreement in the face of American warships and Israeli war planes. The opposition has been striving to free Lebanon from Israeli hegemony and foreign domination, and the response of the Lebanese government by scrapping the agreement was a step in the right direction. It is also a starting point towards resuming the dialogue for reconciliation and peace.

Al Dustour: U.S. hegemony on wane

LEBANON'S abrogation of its May 17 agreement with Israel marks a political defeat for Israel which had regarded this as its reward for its 1982 invasion. No doubt the scrapping of the agreement will have its repercussions within Israeli society with more adverse effects on the ruling Likud bloc than the direct results of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in the summer of 1982. The Israeli is the prime loser, but the United States, which had sponsored the agreement, shares an equal defeat.

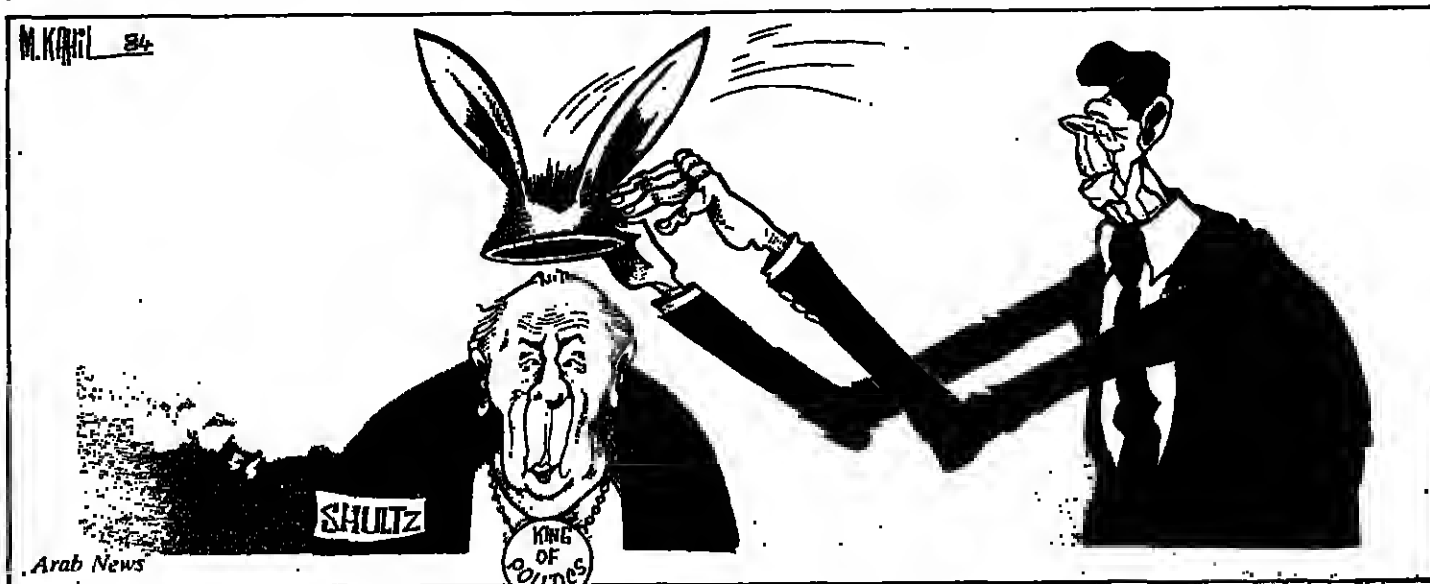
The scrapping of the agreement is the start of U.S. failures in the region and reflects the wane of American hegemony over the whole Middle East.

Washington had exploited the weak Arab Nation and had imposed its will on Lebanon in the form of this agreement, but the firm and obstinate struggle has foiled all such conspiracies and turned the tables against it. The end of the agreement opens for Lebanon vast opportunities for ending the vicious circle of pain and suffering. It opens the way for the resumption of a dialogue for national reconciliation.

Sawt Al Shaab: Arab eyes on Lebanon

DESPITE the destruction and the tragedy which now envelops Lebanon, its government has decided to abrogate the May 17 agreement with Israel, thus dealing a heavy blow to the enemy. It was really a defeat for Israel to be added to a long series of defeats which the Israeli soldiers have suffered in the Shouf and other regions at the hands of the Lebanese opposition militias. The abrogation of the agreement had placed Israel in a political and military dilemma which it had not expected throughout its long conflict with the Arab World.

When it signed the agreement with Lebanon, Israel had hoped that it would impose its terms and conditions on Lebanon from now on. Israel had forgotten that armed aggression can never create peace, and that an invasion will never fulfil Israel's dreams of dividing the region into statelets making it easy for small sects to rule. The Lebanese now have to prove to the Israelis and their allies that they are capable of building up their country again. The eyes of the Arab people are on the Lebanese people and we wish them success in their endeavours to achieve peace.



Do elections bring calm in C. America?

By Chris Angelo
Associated Press

MEXICO CITY — In turbulent Central America, a region with traditions of vote fraud, coups and military-dominated regimes, four countries have scheduled elections for this year.

The elections are for president in three countries — Nicaragua, Panama and El Salvador — and a constituent assembly in Guatemala. The circumstances are different in each country, but none of the elections is being held to replace elected officials.

Colombian Foreign Minister Rodrigo Lloreda Calcedo, visiting Mexico in late February, said the electoral process might be "a little deficient in some cases, but not fully satisfactory from the point of view of the classic, pure, representative democracy to which we are accustomed in other countries."

But he added, "I believe that these expressions of popular will mean a participation and help enable various forces of public opinion to intervene in making decisions in their own countries, which definitely diminishes tension."

Colombia, along with Mexico, Venezuela and Panama, form the Contadora Group, which is trying to find a peaceful solution to Central America's conflicts and which is encouraging participation in the upcoming balloting.

Here is a summary of the elections scheduled this year in Central America:

El Salvador: Six parties are running candidates in March 25 elections for president, four of them conservative to far-right. Jose Napoleon Duarte, of the centrist Christian Democratic Party, who headed a civilian government from 1980 to 1982, and Roberto d'Aubuisson of the far-right Republican Nationalist Alliance, are considered the frontrunners.

If no candidate wins a simple majority a runoff will be held between the top two candidates within 30 days after official results are announced.

Leftist guerrillas, fighting a four-year-old war against the Conservative, U.S.-backed government, say they will not disrupt the voting. But they are boycotting the elections, as they did in 1982 when a constituent assembly was chosen in what was billed as the first clean voting ever in the country. Later there were allegations that the vote total was inflated.

The current president, Alvaro Magana, was chosen by the constituent assembly and inaugurated in May 1982.

Nicaragua: The leftist Sandinista government, also trying to extinguish a rebel movement, scheduled elections for president, vice president and a 90-member legislature for Nov. 4.

The elections will be the first since the Sandinistas took power in July 1979, at the end of a revolution that overthrew rightist dic-

tator Anastasio Somoza. The last elections were in 1974, when Somoza, whose family ruled Nicaragua for about 45 years, was elected to a six-year term.

In announcing the election which had not been expected before 1985, the Sandinistas said they would lower the voting age from 18 to 16. Opposition leaders say the move is an attempt to take advantage of the Sandinistas' extensive support among youth groups.

Opposition parties have threatened to boycott the elections unless the government lifts the state of emergency and press censorship and cuts links between the official party — the Sandinista National Liberation Front — and government security forces.

Panama: The first presidential elections since 1968 are scheduled for May 6.

Arnolfo Arias Madrid, 82, three times elected president and three times removed by the National Guard, is running again, backed by a coalition. His principal opponent is Nicholas Ardito-Barletta, a former World Bank vice president who is backed by the armed forces and the governing Democratic Revolutionary Party.

Voters also will elect two vice presidents and a national assembly. The sudden removal of Interim President Ricardo de la Espriella Feb. 12 and his replacement by Vice President Jorge Illueca was seen as a move by the Defence Forces.

Mr. Illueca and Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega, who as head of the Defence Forces is the most powerful man in the country, affirmed the elections will go on as scheduled. But diplomats and opposition politicians have suggested that the military might intervene again if the outcome of the vote was not to their liking.

Guatemala the military, which has ruled by decree since a March 23, 1982 coup, has set constituent assembly elections for July 1. Gen. Oscar Humberto Mejia Victores, the current head of state, has made it clear that the assembly is to limit itself to writing a new constitution. He recently answered politicians' suggestions that the assembly elect a provisional president, as occurred in El Salvador, by saying that if the parties do not follow the law "there could be a dictator."

The constitution, which included laws governing political parties, was abolished after the 1982 coup and a proliferation of parties are in the process of forming and registering under a new law. The most liberal is considered centre-left.

Gen. Mejia Victores has said the local Communist Party, the Guatemalan Workers Party, may not participate because it is one of four groups in a guerrilla coalition fighting the government. Guerrilla groups have been fighting a succession of military-donated governments in the country for more than 20 years.

Early elections in Australia are likely

By Brian Timms
Reader

SYDNEY — Australia's Labour government is riding so high after a year in office that Prime Minister Bob Hawke may be tempted to call an early election to take advantage of his popularity.

A recent opinion poll indicated 70 per cent of Australians approve of the way the blunt-talking former trade union boss is doing his job as prime minister.

Mr. Hawke, 54, whose term expires in March 1986, has spoken of the possibility of going to the polls at the end of this year or early next year.

He has grounds for thinking Labour can win again because the economy is improving, inflation and unemployment are falling, and unions are so far satisfied with a new wages-prices deal.

Businessmen and investors have also been encouraged as Mr. Hawke's government pragmatically picks its way through

Labour Party dogma despite protests from left-wingers to the party.

Labour has in general encouraged foreign investment and left Australian industry alone, apart from proposing a controversial resources rent tax on nil producers.

At the same time Labour has proved sensitive to public reaction. The government introduced a health scheme for the entire 15 million population, but has stopped a controversial means test on wealthy pensioners.

When Labour won power from the Conservative coalition in a landslide election on March 5 last year, share market investors withdrew about three billion dollars (\$2.7 billion), forcing a 10 per cent devaluation of the currency.

But by July, Doug Anthony, then leader of the opposition National Party, said of Mr. Hawke: "His speeches make me think he might be going to apply for membership of the Liberal or National

parties."

Investors had been reassured enough by November to believe that the Australian dollar was undervalued. Money came flooding back into Australia.

Treasurer (finance minister) Paul Keating stemmed the inflationary inflow in December by allowing the Australian dollar to find its own level against the U.S. dollar.

The float ended the reserve bank daily fix of the Australian-U.S. dollar rate, a break in tradition which was instantly welcomed by the Australian business community.

Labour's success in "the lucky country", as Australia has been known since the old gold-rush days, has prompted Mr. Hawke's opponents to dub him the "lucky prime minister."

Soon after Labour's victory, rains swept eastern Australia. They broke one of the worst droughts the century, produced a record 20 million tonnes wheat crop

and resulted in an economic recovery led by agriculture.

The rains would have helped the Liberal-National party coalition of former Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser, who called the election nine months early.

Mr. Fraser later retired from politics and was replaced as Liberal Party leader by former Foreign Minister Andrew Peacock, who has been trying to revamp the party's image.

Mr. Peacock has had little to attack in parliament because Labour's tenure so far has been relatively trouble-free compared with the previous Labour government of Gough Whitlam.

Mr. Whitlam's government was sacked by the governor-general in 1975 after a constitutional crisis following a fund-raising scandal.

The only real blot for Mr. Hawke has been the resignation of Special Minister of State Mick Young after telling a friend a Soviet diplomat was about to be expelled for alleged spying.

American 'Star Wars' bewilder Europeans

By Paul Taylor
Reader

BRUSSELS — European NATO officials have reacted with a mixture of bewilderment, scepticism and unease to the first detailed briefings on futuristic U.S. ideas for a space-based anti-missile defence system.

The United States this month sent a high-powered expert team to NATO headquarters to give secret briefings to its European allies almost a year after President Reagan's controversial "star wars" speech on the idea.

"I think many of us were bewildered by the technology," sceptical about its effectiveness and very "uneasy about the implications for arms control and for the coupling of European defence with America," one senior European official said.

Mr. Reagan called last March for massive research on the feasibility of a defence against ballistic missiles that could make the U.S. and its allies invulnerable to nuclear attack.

European officials welcomed the briefings by U.S. defence scientists and intelligence experts, which they said were highly informative, made no exaggerated claims but left many unanswered questions.

One official said a scientist told them a three-tier ballistic missile defence system could be 95 per cent effective in shooting down incoming missiles.

"Would you use a contraceptive that was only 95 per cent safe?" he asked. "Anything less than 100 per cent effectiveness would surely be highly destabilising."

Combining ground and space-based lasers, charged particle beams, sensors and other devices, the system would detect and destroy missiles during three phases of flight — shortly after launch, in space and on re-entry into the Earth's atmosphere.

Mr. Reagan has asked Congress for \$5.6 billion over the next two years to fund studies. Pentagon officials say the total research programme could cost up to \$27 billion.

Some European officials said the rationale they were given for the "star wars" effort seemed contradictory.

"The scientists told us this was a golden opportunity to capitalise on the West's technical advance over the Soviets, while the intelligence people said in the 'threat briefing' that had an urgent need to catch up," one official said.

Those who expressed fears about opening a new round of the arms race in space were told it had long since begun.

The officials said they found no clear answer to questions about the arms control implications of "star wars". The U.S. and the Soviet Union signed a treaty in 1972 limiting each side to one anti-missile system around its capital.

Mr. Reagan recently accused Moscow of violating the accord by deploying a new radar and developing new interceptors.

One NATO aide asked whether the U.S. was contemplating tearing up the treaty if scientists came up with a feasible defence system. He was told the research itself did not violate the pact and the question was premature.

An effective system could not

be deployed before the year 2000, the briefers said.

Officials said a major European worry was whether a U.S. ballistic missile defence would really stop any short-range missile fired over the East-West German border or on one of the alliance's outlying flanks.

The flight time of the latest generation of Soviet nuclear missiles being deployed in Eastern Europe is estimated at as little as five minutes.

U.S. defence experts believe the new patriot high-altitude anti-aircraft missiles to be sited in West Germany could be upgraded to pick off incoming rockets.

President Reagan's science adviser, George Keyworth, has said Western Europe would be easier to defend against ballistic missiles than the U.S. because "flight time is less important than the difference in total area that has to be covered."

But NATO officials said the U.S. briefers acknowledged some difficulties and noted the system was not designed to combat ground-hugging cruise missiles or nuclear bomber aircraft.

Pentagon aides say F-15 interceptor aircraft handle defence against these threats with air-to-air missiles.

Some NATO officials fear ballistic missile defence could be as illusory as the pre-World War I "Maginot line" tank barriers which, France thought would shield it from German attack.

Weapons which could sabotage a "star wars" defence system may be in service years before the system itself, which is still on the drawing board.

The U.S. says Moscow has already run some 20 tests of a so-called killer satellite and Washington itself is ready to test a more sophisticated hunter-killer satellite.

The U.S. defence experts argued that, even if the system were less than 100 per cent effective, it would ensure enough U.S. missiles survived to retaliate against a nuclear strike, vastly complicating the task of Soviet strategic planners.

Some officials found this less than reassuring. Last March, Mr. Reagan raised the prospect of sharing space defence information with the Soviet Union.

A future president "could offer to give that same defensive weapon to them to prove to them that there was no longer any need for keeping these (offensive) 'in-siles,'" Mr. Reagan said.

His Spokesman Larry Speakes said in October the U.S. hoped both superpowers would ultimately find defensive capabilities to enhance mutual security and broaden arms control.

But some NATO officials said that if Washington and Moscow both developed systems to thwart a missile attack, the nuclear arms now deployed in Europe to deter numerically superior Soviet conventional forces would lose credibility.

"In other words, we'd be back to square one having spent a fortune and lost our deterrent," one official commented.

The U.S. experts argued, however, that since Moscow was clearly already embarked on a major military space research effort, Washington could not afford to lag behind.



Every word was once a poem:
Each began as a picture.

OK: Old Kinderhook

This colloquial expression has become international. It began with the OK club, a group organised in New York in 1840 by the partisans of Martin Van Buren who were supporting him for a second term in the White House. Van Buren was born in Old Kinderhook, N.Y., and practised law there in his youth. During the stormy battles of the Andrew Jackson period he was nicknamed the Red Fox of Kinderhook, which led to the OK club, and the expression OK became their watchword.

GUY: Started with a fellow called Guy Fawkes.

When a person says of another, "What a guy!" it is not always meant as a compliment, and this can be explained by the history of the word. On Nov. 5, 1605, the famous gunpowder plot was perpetrated as a protest against the sharp enforcement of the anti-Catholic laws of King James I. The anniversary of this cabal is celebrated each year in England and is called Guy Fawkes Day in memory of the chief character in the drama. This fellow Fawkes took a house adjoining the Houses of Parliament in London, tunnelled through the cellar, and concealed a big fat charge of gunpowder in the coal bin. Unfortunately for the leader, one of his conspirators warned a certain Lord Montague by letter to stay away from a meeting at the House on the day set for the explosion. This led to the discovery of the plot and Guy Fawkes was tortured and hanged. On this day it is customary in England to dress up like Americans do in Halloween, and to carry an effigy of Fawkes through the streets and then to burn it. So a guy became a person of grotesque appearance like the effigy, although in America the word guy can be used more innocently and often merely stands as a synonym for an individual, that is, just a "fellow". To guy a person means to carry the effigy of Guy Fawkes. When one guys people, one is certainly ridiculing them and making fun of them.

— Ahmad Jaber

What now after having the chance to vote?

By Sana Atiyeh

AMMAN — What is the young people's attitude towards the coming parliamentary elections in Jordan? It may not come as a surprise to see that many of them carry a negative point of view to the way the elections are being carried out. Speaking to eighteen young men and women between the ages of twenty and thirty, all of whom have spent at least two years in the West — Europe and the United States — only three of them are voting. All young people who have lived for some time in the West have complained from what they call "the lack of democracy" in Jordan. So why are they not voting now that they have this opportunity at last?

One young man complains that none of the candidates is approaching the young, or even addressing them; many of the others agree with him. "Why should we vote for any of the candidates if they pay us no attention? We are, after all, the next ruling generation. Why isn't there any young man running for the elections, or at least someone who can sense our existence and importance in this society?" These young people lack trust in the candidates; maybe if they (the candidates) try to bridge the gap between them and the young, a trust between each other will flourish.

Another reason that the majority here agrees upon is the lack

of proper publicity and campaigns. They claim that they do not know enough about the men running for the elections. All they know is the little they see in the newspapers and signs in the streets of Amman, which is not enough for them to take a decision on whom to vote for. From the publicity they see, they are not convinced that any of the candidates is truly running for "nationalistic" reasons. According to these young men and women, the candidates are not emphasising internal improvements but making promises on solving problems that even the big powers have not been able to solve in three decades. They feel that dealing with local problems is

more practical and possible than dealing with international issues. Plainly, they do not believe in promises that could not be delivered.

Another main important reason why young people are not convinced of the elections is that they feel this is not democracy in the proper sense of the word. All kinds of men are running for elections, and they hold great importance to their names and tribes to win votes; they are not presenting themselves on an individualistic level. And therefore, people would vote for a certain man for his name rather than his personal background, education, and actual abilities.

On the other hand, the three young people who are voting here have their ironic reasons: One young woman is voting for someone because he is a relative; a young man is voting for another because he was a neighbour; and another young man is voting because he feels it is his sense of duty, although he does not yet know whom he is voting for.

From a more positive point of view, this group of young people does feel, however, that these elections are a good experience for the voters; if they vote now for someone for tribal or family reasons, next time they will learn whom to vote for actually. And the men running for elections

will know how to organise campaigns and publicity for themselves more efficiently. One young man strongly feels that democracy and voting should be taught to people from a very early age in Jordan so that they can get the true sense of the meaning of democracy when they are of legal age to vote in the future.

However, only one young man out of the eighteen feels guilty about not voting. (He cannot vote, lacking a necessary document for the bureaucracy.) He says that by the brief knowledge he had of the candidates, he does have an idea of whom he would not want to win the elections. And if any of these candidates does win, he will feel as

if he has participated in his winning because he did not help someone else's vote. He feels that no matter how cynical young people are towards the elections, they at least should vote for someone to help keep the ones they disagree with out of parliament.

With the attitude young people have about the parliamentary elections, and with their understanding of democracy, this next ruling generation in our country will hopefully learn from this first step of democracy and fulfil their dreams when their turn comes.

Sana Atiyeh is a freelance writer for the Jordan Times.

Latin carnivals held despite recession

By Richard Boudreaux
Associated Press

ORURO, Bolivia — The annual four-day festival of Pagan and Roman Catholic revelry leading to Ash Wednesday started over the weekend as thousands of dancers and musicians took to the streets of this Andean mining centre.

Dancing devils, llama herders, feathered condors and Inca warriors were among the costumes worn by 8,000 dancers and musicians from 52 Bolivian folklore troupes that entertained more than 100,000 people with a 10-hour parade Saturday that has been repeated daily until Wednesday.

Far simpler than Brazil's well-known carnival in Rio de Janeiro, the festivities in Oruro are more typical of the region. Carnival is a four-day national holiday in Ecuador, Uruguay, Venezuela, Bolivia and Brazil. Traditional floats and costumed dancers also parade in parts of Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Mexico and Trinidad, where steel drums give the festivities a calypso flavour.

Slogans calling for democracy have crept into carnival chaos this year in Uruguay and Brazil, both under military rule. Ecuador threatened to jail anyone throwing water balloons, but this carnival tradition, also popular in Peru and other countries, continued unabated.

A deep economic slump in much of Latin America put few restraints on the festivals.

"You don't notice any recession here," said Bolivian Finance Minister Fernando Baptista as he tossed coloured confetti from the Oruro city hall balcony where

cabinet officials and foreign diplomats watched Saturday's parade.

Efforts by recent military governments to make Bolivians work the Monday and Tuesday before Lent failed, and even the harshest of those regimes felt obliged to lift an overnight curfew during carnival week in 1981.

This year, with Bolivia under civilian rule and suffering its worst recession in decades, carnival worked its magic by prompting bus owners to suspend a nine-day nationwide strike so they could collect fares from thousands of festival-goers.

The only sign of the crisis is a gasoline shortage that forced motorists leaving Oruro to wait in line for more than an hour Saturday at its only filling station.

The carnival in Oruro is the best-known because of the diablada, or devil dance, a 12th-century Roman Catholic rite brought there by Spanish colonisers and adapted to superstitions held by the indigenous Quechua and Aymara Indians about spirits lurking in the tin mines.

Devoted to the Virgin of the Cave, patron saint of Bolivia's tin mining industry, the dance pits a blue-eyed angel against a troupe of demons in a struggle between Good and Evil.

The 52 companies, or troupes, march daily to the rhythm of brass bands along a 36-block route lined by eight rows of bleachers packed at prices of up to \$1.50 a seat.

Emblazoned by beer or chicha, a corn-based spirit, some spectators venture into the street during frequent stops in the parade to pose for photographs or dance arm-in-arm with the folklore characters.

Oman monitors navigation in the Gulf

Stewart Dalby visits Goats Island to eavesdrop on the world's busiest oil tanker route.

Should Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini try to carry out his threat to close the Strait of Hormuz, His Majesty Qaboos bin Said, Sultan of Oman, is going to be the first leader to know.

On Goats Island, an outcrop of rock at the northern tip of the Musandam Peninsula, an Oman navy detachment led by a British commodore is keeping a 24-hour watch. It is keeping an eye, not only on every ship that passes through the strait — at the widest point, depending on which islands you include, Oman is just 20 miles from Iran — but also on which shipping, both commercial and military, is going into Bandar Abbas, thought to be Iran's only properly functioning port.

The Sperry radar and computer on Goats Island is linked to an unmanned radar station on Qoins Island which is closer to the middle of the strait. The radar throws up a picture of the strait and the shipping lanes on a screen. Dots identify the ships.

The young lieutenant, complete with bushy black beard and seconded from the British navy, pre-presses his control stick and moves a circle over the dot, and then gets a readout of where the vessel is, how fast it is moving and in which direction.

The "direction" is important. Since 1979 Oman has policed the strait with international agreement under a traffic separation scheme. Because of the volume of traffic, east-to-west shipping moves in the lane nearer Oman and west-to-east in the lane nearer Iran. Both lanes, though, are in the 12-mile territorial waters claimed by Oman. What the com-

puter will not do is tell exactly what kind of vessel is passing before its eyes.

This is the job of the Oman navy. Just now, this consists of a province class ship, called the Dhoof, which has a speed of 35 knots, a capacity to operate in very rough water and a cargo of six 40 mm Exocet missiles. These are the second generation Exocets and have a range of 40 miles. Two more Province class ships are on order and there could be more to come.

Apart from this, there are six Bravo class patrol boats. They are 25 metres in length, have 76 mm cannons for anti-aircraft purposes, can manage 17 knots, and four of them carry two 38 mm Exocet missiles.

A party of journalists was invited to go out to look at the ships. What happens is that the commander of the Bravo — ours was commanded by a second British lieutenant, Ian McCloud — calls up the relevant ships on the radio and asks them to identify themselves.

Something like 850 ships travelled east-to-west in December and 760 west-to-east. This means about 50 a day; more than half would be tankers. While the Oman navy's prime role is to police the strait and ensure the free flow of traffic, it is also keeping vigilant against an Iranian attack on the sultanate either as part of an attempt to close the strait or simply to subjugate Oman itself.

Over the last year Goats Island has received its first detachment of troops. The army will not say how

many or who, but counting the new buildings I would guess there is at least a company — that is from 100 to 200 men.

Behind this "sharp end" deployment is one of the best small armies in the world. The Sultan's armed force is best known for having won the guerrilla war in the southern province of Dhofar in 1965-75. It was largely British officered at the time.

Today the army has a standing force of 16,000 men. There are probably some 500 British officers either on secondment or on contract.

The army, primarily an infantry force in the insurgency days, has been buttressed by artillery units including 105 mm and 130 mm guns (some of them, curiously enough, Chinese). There are also armoured units, two squadrons of Chieftain tanks — about 30 in all which are supplanting older M60s.

The airforce is also being strengthened. Oman has two squadrons of Jaguar aircraft backed up by Rapier ground-to-air surveillance and attack capability. It is looking at Tornados and F15s and F16s as a new generation of interceptor aircraft.

Hovering over everything is President Reagan's Rapid Deployment Force. Sultan Qaboos has shied away from allowing U.S. troop bases in Oman, feeling the American soldiers would be too provocative.

But it is an open secret that the U.S. has been busily making "alterations" not only to Masirah airbase but also to other airports, at Salalah, at Seeb near Muscat, and possibly at the blacktop airstrip at Khasab on Musandam.

Again, it is all under wraps, but it is thought that in the event of an emergency the Rapid Deployment Force could deploy in great numbers within 48 hours. By itself, Oman could give any regional offender a bloody nose. To

say the least, with U.S. backing it is in a very strong position. Oman's forces are more than a pane of glass, and should it be broken some pretty strong alarm bells would ring. — The Financial Times news feature.



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Richest deal ever for an athlete

Quarterback Young signs record \$40m contract

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The Los Angeles Express of the United States Football League scored a major coup Monday, landing Brigham Young quarterback Steve Young with a staggering \$40 million contract that is the richest pact ever for an athlete.

Young, one of the most prolific passers in college history, will benefit from the contract that runs for 43 years.

A left-hander who set or tied 13 NCAA passing and total offense records while at BYU, Young had been courted by the National Football League's Cincinnati Bengals, who told him they would make him the first pick in the May 1 NFL draft.

The Bengals' offer was a reported \$3.5 million over five years, including a \$1 million signing bonus.

Young.

Although Young had said earlier that he'd prefer to play in the NFL, he decided over this past weekend to sign with the Express of the two-year-old USFL.

He said a phone conversation with one of his "heroes" former Dallas Cowboys quarterback Roger Staubach, influenced him to pray and carefully weigh the decision.

A great-great-grandson of Mormon Pioneer leader Brigham Young, Steve is a member of the

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, and attributed part of his decision to sign with Los Angeles to his desire to aid Byu.

"I saw this as a situation where I could give back some of the things Byu had given me in the last four years," he said.

Young's contract, a source told the Associated Press, will be worth \$1m a year for the first four years and includes a \$2.5m signing bonus. The contract runs through the year 2027.

The complex agreement includes a \$100,000 a year endorsement policy with a savings and loan company in Salt Lake City; a scholarship policy with Byu worth \$183,000; and deferred payments totalling over \$30m.

Comparatively, the top total money contract in the NFL now is that of San Diego quarterback Dan Fouts, who is receiving some \$6m over six years. The richest in the National Basketball Association belongs to Los Angeles' Earvin "Magic" Johnson, \$25m for 25 years. In baseball, it's the \$21m being paid over 10 years to the New York Yankees' Dave Winfield. And in the National Hockey League, it's the \$21m, 21-year contract owned by Edmonton's Wayne Gretzky.

Top automobile industry executives make in the area of half a million dollars a year plus sizeable bonuses. President Ronald Reagan's annual salary is \$200,000 plus a \$50,000 expense account.

Dutch cities compete for 1992 Summer Olympics

AMSTERDAM (R) — Amsterdam and Rotterdam, the Netherlands' two main cities, have put forward competing plans to stage the 1992 Summer Olympic Games, the Netherlands Olympic Committee said Tuesday.

At a meeting Monday night with the committee, which is keen to bring the games to the Netherlands, both cities forecast the event would cost some \$500m and said financial support from government or industry would be needed.

Amsterdam officials proposed erecting a new Olympic stadium on the site of its existing one, built for the 1928 games, while Rotterdam suggested renovating its 58,000-seat stadium.

But despite the competing proposals, committee officials said it was likely to favour a joint effort by the two cities, which lie only 60 kilometres apart and have complementary sporting sites.

One city must then be chosen to lead the effort, since only single cities can bid for the games under the Olympic Charter.

A three-man commission, led by former Royal Dutch Shell oil company chairman Gerrit Wagnier, will now examine the plans and report back to the Olympic committee in April.

Ovett loses to New Zealander

MELBOURNE (R) — Steve Ovett, Britain's world 1,500 metres record holder, was beaten by a little-known New Zealander at a meeting here Monday.

Ovett failed to match the sprint finish of Peter O'Donoghue, who won by three metres. O'Donoghue, 22, of Auckland clocked three minutes 37.08 seconds to Ovett's 3:37.54 with Australian Pat Scammell third in 3:37.86.

Ovett said: "It's always disappointing to lose but three minutes 37 seconds is a good first upper."

Ovett, the Olympic 800 metres champion, arrived in Australia a week ago for six weeks racing and training away from the cold European winter.

Yarmouk University to build sports city

AMMAN (J.T.) — An agreement has recently been signed by the Yarmouk University and an international firm for designing and drawing up tenders for the construction of a sports city at Yarmouk University, Al Ra'i newspaper reported Tuesday.

The agreement stipulates that the international company should make a study of the prospective construction site and then to prepare the necessary designs, technical studies, tender documents and all preliminary construction technical works.

The sports city will provide for all necessary sports facilities according to international Olympic standards.

Ministry committee meets

AMMAN (Petra) — The Coordination and Planning Committee of the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Antiquities Monday held a meeting presided by Minister Abdullah Owaidat, at Al Hussein Youth City during which a formula was formed for co-ordination between the committee the various ministry departments and the concerned parties of cultural and sports affairs.

The committee comprises of Dr. Ahmad Shartas, Mr. Haidar Mahmoud, Dr. Adnan Haddid, Mr. Isam Arida, and Mr. Mohammed Jamil Abu Al Tayyeb.

Nerves begin to show in African Nations Cup

ABIDJAN (R) — The nerves were beginning to show Tuesday as tension mounted in many of the eight camps of the teams seeking glory in the African Nations Soccer Cup finals.

Coaches, having had a good look at the competition in the first encounters of the two-group round robin matches that will decide the four semi-finalists, were making last minute plans as they faced second games that, for some, could be make or break affairs.

After Tuesday's rest day, the attention moves from Bouake, the second city of the Ivory Coast where matches were played last night, to Abidjan where the hosts Wednesday take on Egypt.

Both won their opening games and neither can afford a slip-up, with Cameroon still snarling from their 1-0 defeat by Egypt taking on Togo, who will have to improve considerably in their form in a 3-0 beating by Ivory Coast if they are to stay in contention.

Cameroon ought to win and if either Egypt or Ivory Coast lose Wednesday the group A the four

are contesting will be thrown wide open. Cameroon's Yugoslav coach, Rade Onjanovic blamed the defeat by Egypt on a momentary lapse of concentration by star goal keeper Thomas N'Kono, who let a 30-metre (yard) freekick under his body.

But he said that, although the defeat was unexpected, it had not damaged the team's morale. "We will be giving everything in our last two matches to make sure we win," he told Reuters.

Egyptian manager Abdou Saleh Al-Wahsh was in his usual cautious mood and clearly nervous of taking on the Ivorians on their home turf with a fanatical crowd behind them.

"But this match is not going to be easy for either the Ivorians or us," he said. "The better side will win."

Egypt must now strongly fancy their chances of being one of the two teams to qualify for the next stage after beating Cameroon, on paper the strongest side in the group.

The Ivorians were at their most exuberant against the dis-

appointing Togolese in the opening match of the tournament on Sunday but they will find the Egyptians a different opposition altogether.

Al-Wahsh's team pulls at least seven men behind the ball to smother the midfield ambitions of their opponents, win the ball and launch swift counter-attacks and the Ivorians are simply not going to find the room to play they did against Togo.

That realisation, however, has not dampened the sky-high confidence of the Ivorians to whom their opening win, against a Togo side that had an impressive run of victories behind it, was simply proof that their time has come.

Whether that confidence will survive the Egyptian test may depend to a great extent on 18-year-old Yousef Fofana, who looked a genuine class prospect against Togo.

He has amazing acceleration, fine ball control and a cracking left-foot shot, which might be the weapon that will split a very solid and well organised Egyptian defence.

De Castella fears for health of Olympic marathon runners

NEW YORK (R) — Long distance king Rob de Castella believes marathon runners may jeopardise their health at the Los Angeles Olympics because of the city's infamous smog.

The 27-year-old Australian who has not lost a marathon since the 1980 Moscow Olympics said here Tuesday: "I think there will be a fairly high risk to our health. I hate to think I might destroy my athletic career because of adverse weather conditions. It's a heavy price to pay."

World champion de Castella is among a number of runners unhappy at the prospect of racing in Los Angeles in mid-summer because of the heat and smog that usually prevails in the city at that time of year.

The Australian, whose best time of two hours eight minutes 18 seconds is only five seconds be-

hind the world best of American Alberto Salazar, was also critical of the Los Angeles Organising Committee for scheduling the marathon at 5:15 in the afternoon.

"I understand the sun doesn't set in Los Angeles until about 8 o'clock, so at 5:15 it's likely to be very sunny and hot," he said.

"I'd much prefer that it be held at 7 o'clock in the morning, and I think the other runners would, too," he added.

De Castella said the organising committee had obviously acceded to a request by television officials to start the race at 5:15. "I don't think the media should decide when an event is held," he said.

He said that the Australian Athletic Federation had protested to both the International Olympic Committee and the Los Angeles Organising Committee about plans to hold the event in late afternoon on August 12, the last day of the games.

"But obviously nothing ever

came of the protest and I'm disappointed."

De Castella said of the Olympic course: "It's potentially a fast course, and it's demanding. It's uphill during much of the last five or six miles (9 km), and I think strong runners will do best."

De Castella said he thought his most formidable rivals would be Kadebe Balcha of Ethiopia and Tanzanians Gidamis Shahanga and Juma Ikangaa. "But there'll also be some outstanding, unknown runners from Africa, and the winner might very well be an African that no one has ever heard of."

As to Salazar, De Castella said: "Alberto is not running well at the moment. And he's feeling too much pressure."

"At this stage, I don't think it's fair to place too much expectations on Alberto. I think his problems are both mental and physical."

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Due to many of the qualified firms requests, Amman Development Corporation has decided to postpone the submission date of the tender documents of the project mentioned above till 12:00 noon on Monday, April 9th, 1994 instead of Monday, March 18th, 1994.

Sami Al-Rashid
Director General

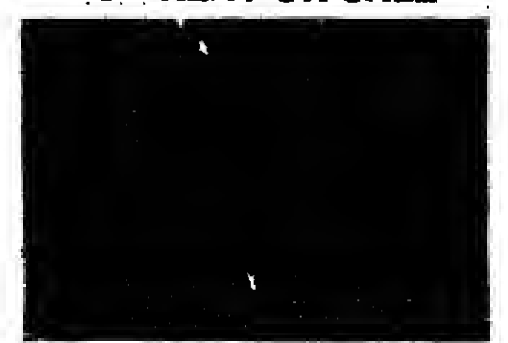
Rummenigge thinking of move to Italy

MILAN, Italy (AP) — West German national soccer star Karl Heinz Rummenigge told an Italian interviewer that he will take within two weeks the "most important decision of my life" — whether to transfer to Italy next season.

The 28-year-old forward of

Bayern Muenich told a correspondent of Milan's sports daily Gazzetta dello Sport that he recently received bids from Italian major league Fiorentina of Florence and that he had previous "contacts" with officials of Juventus of Turin and Internazionale of Milan.

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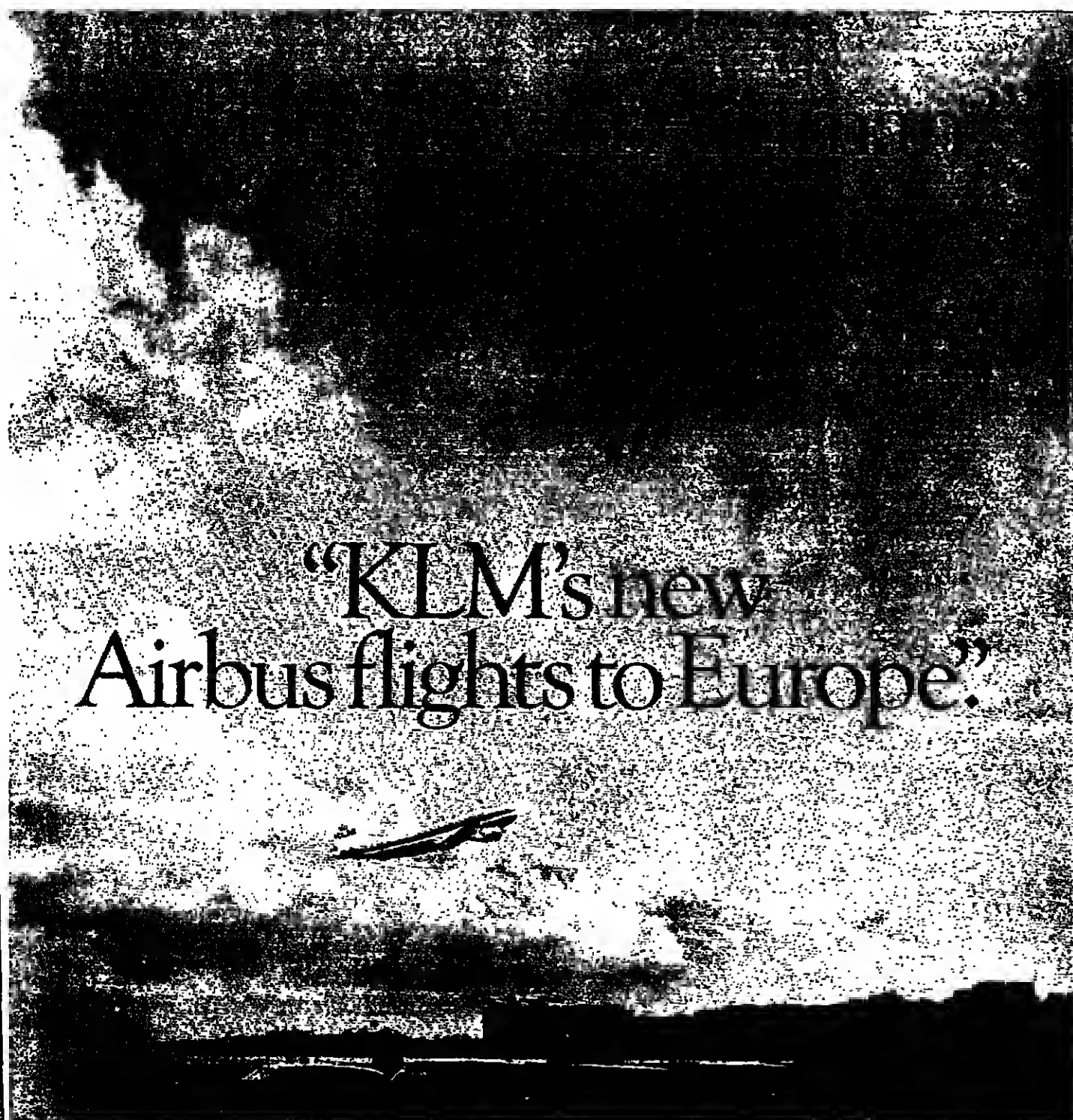
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Egypt enjoys bumper year for investments

CAIRO (R) — Egypt approved 335 investment projects worth 1.7 billion Egyptian pounds (about \$2 billion) last year, Egyptian minister of investment and international co-operation, Mr. Waghi Shindi said Monday.

He told a news conference this was a record year exceeding the annual target for investment of the five-year development plan of about \$1 billion.

He said 85 of the projects were joint stock companies on which the government was particularly keen because they were an ideal way to utilise money from small investors in Egypt and help revive a moribund stock market.

He said since the "open door" policy towards foreign investment was introduced in 1974, about 900 projects had started production, of which 650 were inland projects and 250 were in free zones.

Most are agricultural and industrial projects, banks, tourism and hospitals.

The minister said there was a remarkable increase in Arab capital participation with a total investment of about 29 per cent of inland and free zone projects, mostly by Arabs from the Gulf, despite the lack of formal diplomatic relations.

The rate of Arab participation in 1981 was only 16 per cent and was mostly in real estate and tourism projects. "The new pattern by the Arabs today is to invest in industrial projects and investment companies," he said.

He declined to give names of Arab investors or the exact nature of their projects.

He said the Arabs were the second largest investors after Egyptians, in sectors other than petroleum, with the Europeans third and Americans fourth.

Gulf Oil accepts Socal's \$13b bid

PITTSBURG (R) — Gulf Oil Monday agreed to be purchased by Standard Oil of California (Socal) for over \$13 billion in the largest corporate takeover in U.S. history.

Gulf said the boards of directors of both companies had approved the deal, which calls for Socal to buy Gulf's outstanding shares for \$80 apiece in cash.

Gulf, the fifth largest U.S. oil company, said Socal, the fourth largest, would soon initiate a cash offer for all Gulf's 165 million outstanding common shares.

Socal will not be obligated to purchase shares unless 51 per cent of the outstanding shares are tendered to it.

Gulf has been seeking a way to avoid a hostile takeover bid by Mesa Petroleum, which has led a group competing with Gulf's management for months.

Gulf's board met throughout Monday to consider the options and, according to informed sources, heard presentations by Socal, Atlantic Richfield, the seventh largest U.S. oil company, and the Wall Street investment bank of Kohlberg, Kravis and Roberts.

Shares in Gulf were not traded Monday morning, pending developments, but when trading resumed Monday afternoon, the stock rose \$1.375 to \$70.875 a share.

After the tender offer is completed, the purchase agreement provides for Gulf to be merged with a subsidiary of Socal.

Gulf's shares were trading as

low as \$29 each last year but have risen steadily since as the value of its oil reserves became more apparent.

Lack of government objections to Socal's recent \$10 billion acquisition of Getty Oil also pushed Gulf shares higher on Wall Street as investors came to believe further oil mergers would be permitted.

Last month, Gulf's board recommended rejection of a Mesa proposal to purchase up to 13.5 million additional Gulf common shares at \$65 per share.

The Mesa investment group currently holds about 13 per cent of Gulf's stock.

Since the Gulf rejection, a number of oil companies both in the United States and abroad are reported to have expressed an interest in a combination with Gulf.

Following Gulf's announcement of its agreement with

Socal, Atlantic Richfield said it was withdrawing its bid for Gulf but provided no details.

Justice Department is unlikely to object

The only possible hitch to the deal could come from U.S. anti-monopoly laws, although financial analysts believe the Justice Department is unlikely to object to Socal's purchase of Gulf.

The merger would make the combined group the second biggest in the United States after Exxon.

The purchase will be financed through a \$12.4 billion syndicated commercial loan managed by BankAmerica Corporation, a Socal official said.

The remaining \$1 billion will come from Socal's existing cash reserves, the company said. It refused to reveal the terms of the loan.

Lambsdorff sees possible EMS re-alignment soon

CHICAGO (R) — Recent gains by the West German mark could lead to another re-alignment of the European Monetary System (EMS) in the near future, West German economics minister Cuno Otto Lambsdorff said Monday.

"We couldn't rule out a re-alignment in view of the dollar's recent drop," Mr. Lambsdorff told a press conference here.

The eight members of the EMS — West Germany, France, the Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, Italy, Denmark and Ireland — undertake to limit the extent to which their currencies can fluctuate against each other, while floating together against other currencies.

At times of stress, members intervene on the foreign exchanges, adjusting interest rates and in the final resort, re-aligning the parties.

The recent flow of funds from

the dollar to the mark boosted the West German currency close to its upper intervention point in the EMS against the Belgian franc, according to dealers.

The mark has also gained ground against the French franc and is trading around 308 francs per 100 marks, compared with an EMS floor of 299.85 and a ceiling of 313.65.

The dollar is trading at around 2.57 marks after reaching a 10-year peak of more than 2.84 marks in January.

Mr. Lambsdorff said that the appreciation of the mark against the U.S. currency has lessened inflationary pressures and aided the economic recovery in West Germany.

The mark's rise against the dollar has also lowered West German import costs, Mr. Lambsdorff said.

The Bonn government had not targeted any specific dollar-mark exchange rate, he added.

Europe faces flood of petrochemical imports from Middle East countries

LONDON (R) — Europe fears it could be swamped by petrochemicals from the Middle East as oil-rich countries begin to refine their own gas and oil resources.

Unlike their American competitors, however, Europe's refineries believe the best solution to the problem is not higher import tariffs but further rationalisation of world capacity and a move into more sophisticated products.

After three years of widespread losses and job cuts, Europe's chemical giants are enjoying an upsurge in demand in domestic markets and rising exports due to the strength of the dollar against European currencies.

European Community chemicals output rose four per cent last year, after falling by one per cent in 1982, and the important West German industry may grow two to three per cent this year.

But this growth could prove temporary as the petrochemical sector the backbone of the European industry still faces the problems of large losses and overcapacity — problems which will be exacerbated by the start up of new plants in the Middle East.

Oil-producing countries became interested in petrochemical plants in the mid-1970s as they sought to exploit plentiful gas supplies, increase their control over consumer markets and reduce their dependence on their exports of crude oil.

In 1976, Saudi Arabia — the largest oil producer in the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) — set up the Saudi Basic Industries Corp (Sabic) to oversee the establishment of petrochemical plants.

The kingdom offered long-term supplies of crude oil and cheap financing as an incentive to companies to invest in the schemes and

eventually seven petrochemical plants were set up.

Two cities — Jubail on the Gulf and Yanbu on the Red Sea — were built to accommodate the plants at a cost of more than \$10 billion.

Jubail is the world's largest construction project and Yanbu has been transformed within six years from a fishing village into a 200 square kilometres petrochemical complex fed by natural gas piped from Jubail.

Methane in this gas is used to produce ammonia and methanol instead of being simply flared off wastefully as before, while ethane is turned into ethylene, the feedstock or "building block" for a wide range of petrochemicals.

Sales could top \$315b

Two plants are already in production and several others will come on stream within the next 18 months.

Saudi sales could top \$3.5 billion by 1987.

The Saudis, who hope to capture five per cent of the world petrochemical market by 1990, signed contracts recently for two "second generation" plants that will refine the output of existing operations into products like polyvinyl chloride (PVC).

The effect of the Saudi plans of world output will be staggering.

Industry sources estimate that annual OPEC ethylene output will rise to 3.3 million tons in 1985 from 576,000 in 1982, while methanol output will soar to 2.29 million tons, 10 per cent of world capacity, from 430,000 tons in 1982.

Regan visited Riyadh last October and warned of the possible protection of the U.S. market if Saudi products do not compete fairly.

But the Saudis firmly reject the idea that they are guilty of unfair competition in using their cheaper gas.

They say this advantage is balanced by the high costs of building the plants and the industrial infrastructure.

They also point out that 47 per cent of all imports into the kingdom are tariff-free, while the European Community levies 13.8 per cent on PVC imports and 13.5 per cent on methanol.

The six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council has called for talks with the European Community on cutting tariffs.

While the European response to this is likely to be lukewarm, there is no desire for more protectionist measures among European producers.

Outlook is worrying

"There is no pressure here for increased tariffs, although we doubt that it's the moment to reduce them. Certainly the outlook is worrying — but do you want to make war with these people?" one Italian industrialist asked.

A Belgian colleague said West European governments would be loath to offend Arab countries on which they depend for oil supplies and lucrative engineering orders.

Anti-dumping laws already in existence could be used to limit imports if necessary, and these could be complemented by a proposed community safeguard regulation against unfair competition, Italians say.

European Commission sources say there has been no formal demand for protection against petrochemical imports.

Many European chemical companies fear current price rises in

Europe could collapse if even a small amount of low-priced material from Middle East plants undercuts domestic prices.

France prefers quota

The French industry, struggling to overcome massive losses and a state-ordered restructuring, would like the community to arrange an import quota deal with Saudi Arabia on the lines of an arrangement for Japanese video recorders.

Others see co-operation as the answer, either through joint ventures in the new plants or Arab investment in Europe.

Kuwait has bought 24.9 per cent of West Germany's Hoechst, Europe's largest ethylene purchaser, and taken over Gulf's Oil refining and marketing interests in many European countries.

Europe, M.E. focus on S.E. Asia, N. Africa

Both Europe and the Middle East are looking to higher demand from South East Asia and North Africa to mop up new supplies.

The Saudis say most of its methanol output is being marketed in Japan and the Far East, but more will head towards Europe soon.

A slump in demand led Europe to cut its ethylene capacity by 10 per cent, and Britain's petrochemicals work force fell from 444,000 in 1979 to 365,000 in 1983.

Yet there remains large overcapacity in many sectors of European petrochemicals.

"We would like to see greater European rationalisation to counter the challenge of Saudi imports," a spokesman for the U.S. chemical industry said.

The threat of basic petrochemicals from the Middle East has persuaded Europeans to stress more specialised, less cyclical products such as drugs, insecticides and high-quality plastics.

Food rationing in Poland may be phased out in '85

WARSAW (R) — Food rationing in Poland may be phased out at the beginning of 1985 but restrictions on meat will stay, Deputy Prime Minister Zbigniew Messner said Monday.

He told the Communist Party daily Trybuna Ludu that the performance of the country's farmers this year would determine the speed with which rationing could be ended and that the authorities intended to move cautiously.

The government was anxious to avoid a repetition of the public outcry which followed the sudden reintroduction of butter rationing last November only a few months after it was lifted.

Mr. Messner said the authorities would want firm proof that supplies were sufficient to meet demand before lifting controls on rationed products which include rice, sugar, flour and cooking oil as well as meat and butter.

U.S. fears flood of imports

U.S. producers, already upset by the prospect of lost sales in the important Middle East market, now fear a flood of imports.

Treasury Secretary Donald

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris

Peanuts

Mutt 'n' Jeff

Andy Capp

Carmakers boost sales

DETROIT (R) — The three big U.S. carmakers said Monday that their February car sales rose 41.3 per cent, or almost 200,000 vehicles, ahead of last year's selling pace, their best showing in the month since 1979.

Ford said its sales were up 54.9 per cent last month. General Motors (G.M.) was ahead 37.2 per cent and Chrysler improved by 35 per cent over the February, 1983, results.

The smaller American Motors, 46.4 per cent owned by Renault of France, had car sales 20 per cent ahead of the 1983 pace and Volkswagen of America was up 15.8 per cent.

American Honda, which sold 10,415 cars in February, did not report sales from its U.S. plant a year ago.

For the first two months of 1984, G.M., Ford and Chrysler said their car sales climbed by 44 per cent over the comparable period in 1983.

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7, 1984

YOUR DAILY Horoscope
from the Carroll Righter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The early morning finds you able to make long-range plans of a very practical nature; this is an opportunity that you must take the initiative in.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Study your practical relationships with others and try to improve them. Forget anxieties. Make the evening happy with your mate.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Get a good friend to help you early with a stubborn associate. Devote the evening to the one you love.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) You can get that difficult job handled well with the aid of an influential person, but don't become demanding.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) You get a fine idea in the morning about how to get greater enjoyment. Steer clear of a friend who likes to quarrel.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Handle wisely some anxiety at home because of a business limitation. Situations will arise that call for tact and poise.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Long conversations with allies in the morning bring about greater efficiency. Be careful in your choice of words.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Figure out how much it will cost to fix your environment. You may get tired in the middle of the day, but carry on leisurely.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) You find time to enjoy some pleasure in the morning, but don't try to force anything after lunch. Make plans with your mate.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Plan some way of convincing kin to go along with you in a plan they do not seem to care for. Be patient.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) A good pal gives right ideas where travel and correspondence matters are concerned. Use tact and diplomacy.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Get right down to doing career duties, even if they seem a little too difficult for you. Do not try to force anything later.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) You have new ideas and should put them in motion early. Plan that trip now that will bring you the assistance you need.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will be one who will be very good at handling anything of a secret nature and should have the education slanted along lines of investigation. A government connection would then be fine. Religious training is important.

"The Stars impel; they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!

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THE Daily Crossword by Rhoda Kraus

ACROSS

1 Group character

8 Room: Sp.

10 Middle-East official

14 Cook in a way

15 Ring decisions

16 MacGregor, for example

17 Devilish

18 — man (indispensable one)

20 Supplement

22 Future trys

23 Former

24 Grain

DOWN

25 Compose

27 Discussion group

28 In the manner of

29 Give back money

31 Strange

35 Murn

37 Passé

39 Word with hard or soft

40 Lilliputian

42 Changed the decor

44 Madrid day

45 Pies

47 Little — Annie

49 Certain street

51 Musical

52 Climb in a way

53 Talks at length

56 More attractive

58 Excessive

59 Indonesian island

60 Catches

61 Villainous expression

62 Magic stick

63 Location

64 — Ababa

13 Companion to fls and butts

19 — Mile Island

21 Challenged

24 Howled

25 Forest animal

26 Wings

27 Heads

30 Social group

32 Flagrant delict

33 Hip bones

34 Spirit

38 Meant

39 Certain fashions

41 Show boredom

43 Bram Stoker opus

46 Synthetic fabrics

48 Leveled

49 Scarfed —

50 Sheer fabric

51 Brit

52 George or Irwin

53 Obligation

54 Pakistani abbr.

55 Meeting

57 Actress Zetterling

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

DOWN: CLIP, SPILL, UPPIS, LIEKA, ERIE, CLAMBERMAN, ARABA, TIRE, AMAR, SHIVER, STICK, YODODO, BLESS, DODGERS, BEAVIS, SMITH, BEA, ADIT, ARENIT, SLAIG, CAIO, ALITY, EATEVY, LUTWIERE, WHITE, BARKEN, SWAPS, HARRIS, MULL, GROUE, ANASIS, BOODFOFF, MORTIE, ETUOL, IMEY, PRIEIA, BEIS, YARD.

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Warsaw Pact proposes arms spending freeze

MOSCOW (R) — The Warsaw Pact has proposed negotiations with NATO on a freeze in arms expenditure leading to mutual reductions in defence spending, but the first reaction from Western diplomats was cool.

The latest move by the Soviet bloc was apparently been sponsored by Romania, the Pact's maverick member, which has often called for diversion of resources from military spending to improving living standards and building up troubled economies like its own.

The official Soviet News Agency TASS said Romania circulated the Pact proposal Monday to the Bucharest embassies of NATO members.

Essential elements cited by TASS were a call for a small token cut in military spending by every state in the two alliances, followed by a three-year freeze in defence expenditure leading to large-scale reduction.

Western diplomats in Bucharest said the new offer appeared to contain nothing new of substance, and in Brussels NATO sources said such proposals had previously been seen as purely declaratory and of no value to arms control or mutual security.

The diplomats said it appeared

to be a slightly more elaborate version of similar calls made in the past, for example in a speech by Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko to the 35-nation Disarmament Conference in Stockholm in January.

TASS said that under the new proposal a simultaneous cut in military spending by the nuclear power in each bloc — the Soviet Union on one side and the United States, France and Britain on the other — would be calculated as a proportion of gross national product.

But there are already East-West disputes on how military spending is measured.

The Soviet Union estimates its defence spending at about six per cent of annual government expenditure, or about 2.7 per cent of the Communist economy's equivalent of Gross National Product (GNP).

But independent Western analysts say many elements included in Western arms figures, such as military research and development, are covered by other

figures in the Soviet budget. U.S. intelligence has suggested that Soviet expenditure may account for over 12 per cent of GNP, and calculations are complicated by the artificially-set value of the ruble.

The Warsaw Pact proposal said a three-year freeze on arms spending increases would give a breathing space "to facilitate the passage to more drastic cuts in military budgets through subsequent negotiations".

The statement added: "The Warsaw treaty member states proceed from the assumption that agreements on cuts in military spending must be carried out in a manner that would give to all the participants in the agreements in question confidence in their implementation".

The document said the Pact members were also prepared to study proposals on other measures to freeze and cut spending.

It called for maximum efforts to arrange talks that could lead to results and "not to take any actions capable of complicating them," a reference which Western experts said might be an oblique call for a halt to deployment of new U.S. cruise and Pershing-2 missiles in Europe.



Valéry Giscard d'Estaing

Former French president to run in 1986 elections

PARIS (AP) — Former French President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing said Monday night he will seek a seat in the National Assembly during the 1986 elections. He made the statement during a television appearance on the French programme "Hour of Truth". Mr. Giscard d'Estaing defeated in his 1981 re-election bid by François Mitterrand, whose Socialist victory ended 23 years of conservative rule in France.

The next presidential elections will be held in 1988, Mr. Giscard d'Estaing did not indicate if he plans to run in that race.

The 1986 legislative elections will be the first campaign for national offices since the 1981 presidential race.

Palme urges Swedish Navy to net intruding submarine

STOCKHOLM (AP) — After sharp criticism from an opposition leader Monday, Prime Minister Olof Palme urged the Swedish navy to spare no effort in tracking down suspected alien submarines and frogmen inside a secret naval base.

"It is of the utmost importance that the military authorities complete their activities in the Karlskrona area with all available force and use the time they deem necessary," said Mr. Palme after being briefed on the search Monday by the supreme commander and the defence chief of staff.

It was Mr. Palme's first official statement on the submarine hunt in the Karlskrona Archipelago in southeastern Sweden which entered its 25th intensive day Monday.

Mr. Palme's statement came a few hours after he had been sharply criticised by Conservative

opposition leader Ulf Adelsohn for his "silence" on the issue.

"Palme speaks up all over the world on anything. But at home, in a situation when Swedish soldiers could confront foreign soldiers on Swedish ground for the first time since 1809, Palme is so silent, so silent," Mr. Adelsohn charged in a television interview.

Mr. Adelsohn was referring to press reports that Swedish soldiers Sunday morning opened fire against "possible divers" trying to wade ashore on an island in the search area.

The report has not been confirmed by the tight-lipped defence spokesmen.

"Mr. Adelsohn also criticised the Social Democratic government's decision to go ahead Monday and send, as previously planned, a highly placed Foreign Ministry official to Moscow for a meeting with a Soviet vice-foreign



Olof Palme

secretary.

The Palme government is pursuing a policy of normalisation towards the Soviet Union after the cooler relations that followed the grounding of the Soviet "whisky" class submarine U-137 off Karlskrona in October 1981.

No country has been fingered in connection with the on going submarine search and the Swedish government has so far opted for a markedly low profile.



Husband charged for killing wife

GUILDFORD, England (AP) — The husband of a woman whose weighted body was found last week at the bottom of England's deepest lake was charged Monday night with her murder. Peter Hogg, 56, a pilot for Air Europe, one of Britain's biggest vacation charter airlines, will appear in Guildford magistrate's court Tuesday on charges he murdered his wife, Margaret, who disappeared eight years ago, a police spokesman said. The British Press dubbed the case the "lady in the lake" when the body of a woman was found in northwest England's lake district where police were searching for 21-year-old French student Veronique Marre, who disappeared last year on a youth hostel trip.

'Thin Man' actor dies at 91

PALM SPRINGS, California (R) — Actor William Powell, the dapper man about town who starred with Myrna Loy in the Thin Man detective films of the 1930s and 40s, died Monday in Palm Springs Hospital. He was 91. Hospital officials said Powell, who was admitted on Sunday, died of natural causes. The mountaineer actor starred in more than 60 films after first appearing as a villain in the silent movie Sherlock Holmes in 1922. Powell was best known as the cynical sleuth Nick Charles, the detective character he developed with Myrna Loy, who played Nora Charles, in the Thin Man, a series of six films made from 1934 to 1947.

Michael Jackson to undergo surgery

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Singer Michael Jackson will undergo surgery within a few weeks to reconstruct the section of his scalp burned when his hair caught fire while he was filming a commercial, his doctor said Monday. Dr. Steven Hoefflin, who treated Jackson after the accident on the set of a Pepsi-Cola commercial, said the surgery would not be extensive. Jackson, 25, suffered second- and third-degree burns on his scalp when a pyrotechnic special effect accidentally set his hair ablaze during the filming. He received outpatient care for the injury after a one-night hospital stay.

One-handed swimmer disqualified

SYDNEY (R) — A row has blown up in Australia over the disqualification of a one-handed schoolboy swimmer for failing to touch the finish with both hands at the end of a race. Greg Hammond, 16, an entrant for the Disabled Olympics in the United States this year, was disqualified after finishing second against non-handicapped boys in a breaststroke event in New South Wales at the weekend. "Greg's reaction was one of deep hurt and frustration," his father, John Hammond, said Tuesday.

Opera singer dies

ROME (R) — Tito Gobbi, one of the century's greatest operatic baritones, died at his home here Monday night after a long illness. His family said. He was 74. Born at Bassano Del Grappa in the Venetian region, Gobbi began his musical career by winning the international contest of Vienna in 1926, two years before his famous debut at the Rome Opera House in La Traviata. His clear ringing tone won acclaim in the world's leading opera houses, particularly in North America where he performed regularly at the Metropolitan in New York. Best known for his solos in the Verdi Classics and Rossini's William Tell, Gobbi also sang in modern operatic works and performed in musical films including O Sole Mio, I Pagliacci, Giuseppe Verdi and Casa Ricordi. The family gave no details of his illness.

3,500-year-old butter found in tomb

CAIRO (R) — Archaeologists from Cairo University say they have found what may be the oldest preserved in a 3,500-year-old Egyptian tomb at Saqqara, near Cairo. The earliest pre-historic farmers are thought to have learned the technique of making butter but analysis of whitish butter found in four pots at Saqqara may show that the ancient Egyptians were the first people known to have salted butter to preserve it.



Senator Gary Hart gestures Sunday night in Boston after it is announced that he is leading former Vice-President Walter Mondale in the Maine primary (AP wirephoto).

Hart favourite to win in Vermont

MONTEPELIER, Vermont (Agencies) — Democratic presidential contender Gary Hart went into Vermont's state poll Tuesday firm favourite to score his third victory in a row over former Vice President Walter Mondale.

Aides in both campaign teams said Mr. Hart should win the so-called Vermont "beauty contest", in which the state's Democrats vote for their preferred presidential nominee.

Dayton Duncan, a deputy spokesman for the National Mondale Campaign, said: "I don't think we're going to win. We're not making a major effort there in any respect."

No national nominating convention delegates are at stake in the ballot, but Mr. Hart was hoping to maintain the momentum he gained from surprise victories in the New Hampshire primary and Maine's Democratic community caucuses.

Mr. Hart, a Colorado senator, won almost 51 per cent of the Maine vote on Sunday while

Mondale took 44 per cent.

Mr. Hart's aides said a victory in Vermont and next Saturday in Wyoming, which borders his home state, would give him enough momentum to gain a substantial number of the 505 delegates up for grabs in nine state caucuses and primaries on March 13, so-called "super Tuesday".

"We should do well," said Mr. Gordoo Sweeney, a key Hart organizer.

Mr. Mondale, campaigning Monday night in New Brunswick, New Jersey, said he was fighting back for the Democratic nomination.

He told a packed ballroom at a \$100-a-plate dinner: "We're gaining ground each day, we're fighting back and we're going to win in November."

While the Vermont voters will not select delegates to the Democratic National Convention in San Francisco next July, both the Hart and Mondale organisations were hoping for a victory for the

psychological value.

Delegates to the Democratic National Convention, where a candidate will be chosen to face Republican President Ronald Reagan in the November election, will be picked at the state convention in May. Delegates to the state convention will be chosen at caucuses in April.

A win for Mr. Hart would give him a clean sweep of northern New England and put him in a strong position for the March 13 "super Tuesday" contests, after winning the New Hampshire primary last week and the Maine caucuses Sunday. Nine states and American Samoa will hold primaries or caucuses on March 13.

At caucuses, voters publicly indicate their preferences, while in primaries, they cast secret ballots.

The primary is important for Rev. Jesse Jackson. He needs to win at least 10 per cent of the vote or his federal government campaign matching funds will be cut off in 30 days.

Hart puts Mondale in fight for survival

By David Nagy
Reuters

WASHINGTON — Walter Mondale was fighting for his survival in the Democratic nomination race Monday after a second upset victory by presidential hopeful Gary Hart who only two weeks ago was considered a rank outsider.

"I'm in trouble. I need help," Mr. Mondale said in a television interview.

Victory for Mr. Hart, 47, a senator from Colorado on Monday night's Maine caucus voting showed Americans that his stunning win in last week's New Hampshire primary was not a fluke.

His win threw the campaign wide open and a crucial March 13 round of nine state primaries and caucuses was no longer expected to be an easy road to victory for Mr. Mondale, a former vice president.

Some commentators said Mr. Mondale's slide might be irreversible and likened Mr. Hart's rise to the unstoppable campaign in 1976 of the little-known Jimmy Carter, later elected president.

Mr. Mondale's supporters and his opponents were both puzzled why the bottom seemed to be falling out of a candidacy that looked a certain winner until last month.

By contrast, Mr. Hart has won support with a vigorous "new

ideas" campaign and has benefited strongly from attacks on Mr. Mondale's character levelled for months by the now fading candidate Senator John Glenn.

In the wake of Mr. Hart's decisive 51-44 per cent victory over Mr. Mondale in Maine, he is being seen as a Carter look-alike, an outsider successfully battling the political establishment.

Thus far, Mr. Hart, like Carter, seems to be provoking a voter reaction against old political faces in favour of a new contender they scarcely know.

NEWS ANALYSIS

He has now beaten Mr. Mondale in two of the first three contests, having first gained attention with a distant but still surprising second in Iowa two weeks ago.

These early setbacks are especially ominous for Mr. Mondale who may suffer two more setbacks within days — in a Vermont primary Tuesday and in a Wyoming caucus vote, in Mr. Hart's western base, on March 14.

While these two events, like Maine, were once seen as little more than footnotes on the primary calendar, they could now add momentum to Mr. Hart's campaign leading up to the im-

portant March 13 balloting.

Even after his stunning upset in New Hampshire, Mr. Mondale was still considered to have formidable advantages of advance organisation, television advertising, and of being easily identified, while Mr. Hart was little known.

Mr. Hart's name is now a household word across the United States and he is storming through key states, making up in free news coverage what he lacks in staff and funds for television advertising.

The key states on March 13, when nearly 500 delegates to the Democratic presidential nominating convention will be chosen, are Alabama, Florida, Georgia and Massachusetts.

Mr. Mondale, recently favoured in all of them, has to contend with Mr. Glenn's appeal to centrist white voters and the Reverend Jesse Jackson's strong pull on the black vote across the south and in northern big cities.

Mr. Mondale's sudden tumble and Mr. Hart's rise may breathe new life into Mr. Glenn's founding campaign in southern areas where he was once the favourite.

For the moment, Mr. Glenn, Mr. Jackson and ex-Senator George McGovern of South Dakota have been eclipsed in the battle for public attention.

Argentina, Chile end talks on Beagle dispute

BUENOS AIRES (R) — Argentina and Chile have successfully concluded negotiations at the Vatican on a treaty to settle the Beagle Channel dispute, an issue that brought the two countries to the brink of war in 1978. Foreign Ministry sources said Monday.

Delegation leaders would now return home to brief their respective governments and the signing of a formal treaty was only a matter of time, the sources said.

In Rome, the Vatican said in a brief statement that the Argentine and Chilean delegations were to inform their governments about progress in the negotiations.

An Argentine Foreign Ministry

official close to the Beagle Channel talks said: "The negotiations are practically complete ... the only thing left to do is to sign the treaty."

The Vatican has been mediating between Argentina and Chile for five years to try and solve the dispute over several small islands each country claims in the Beagle Channel at the southern tip of South America. A breakthrough followed the end of military rule in Argentina and democratic elections in December.

A draft treaty grants all the disputed islands and 12 miles of offshore waters to Chile. Argentina will have jurisdiction over offshore waters to the Atlantic beyond

this limit, the Argentine Foreign Ministry sources said.

In Santiago, Chilean Foreign Ministry sources said the negotiations had made significant progress and approval of the two governments could mean a settlement of the dispute.

He added that although the Vatican talks had produced agreement on substantive issues there might still be other points outstanding.

The Foreign Ministry sources in Buenos Aires said the Vatican-sponsored negotiations reached an advanced stage last year under Argentina's former military government.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
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ANSWERS TO BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠863 ♥J8 ♦AKQ82 ♣Q65
The bidding has proceeded: West North East South 1 ♠ 1 ♠ 4 ♠ ?

What action do you take?

A.—If you elected to double four hearts, you are in good company — a number of Souths elected to do so in the World Open Pairs Championship, only to find that the contract was unbeatable. Those who bid four spades achieved an excellent result — down one with game cold in the other direction.

Q.2—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠AJ8 ♥AQ842 ♦AQ1082 ♣Partner opens the bidding with three diamonds. What action do you take?

A.—Partner has promised six tricks with diamonds as trumps. You can expect to bring him three or four tricks, but your diamond void might mean that partner has to lose more trump tricks than he thought. We salute you if you curbed your bidding instincts and chose to pass.

Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠AK108 ♥A7 ♦8754 ♣764
The bidding has proceeded: North East South West 1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ ?

What do you bid now?

A.—You might have a slam, but investigation could prove awkward if you were to make any raise in diamonds, even a jump. It is more convenient to make an advance cue-bid of the ace of hearts now, since you can raise diamonds at your next turn. Bid three hearts.

Q.4—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠875 ♦KJ108753 ♣954
The bidding has proceeded: West North East South 1 ♠ 2 ♠ Pass ?

What action do you take?

A.—We agree that three diamonds will probably play better than two hearts. However, unless you are playing a system that allows partner to pass such action, you cannot afford to bid — partner will bid again and you are in bigger trouble. Pass and wait to see what happens. If partner gets doubled, you can then run if you see fit.

Q.5—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠Q983 ♥J732 ♦Q753 ♣6
Partner opens the bidding with one club. What action do you take?

A.—Although you are a point short of the requirement for a response, you dislike partner's suit so much and are so prepared to play in any other spot that we would hazard a response of one diamond. Naturally, you intend passing at your next turn unless partner makes a forcing rebid.

Q.6—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠4 ♥Q983 ♦J73 ♣Q7632
Partner opens the bidding with one spade. What do you respond?

A.—There is a temptation to keep the bidding open with one no trump in the hope that partner can introduce a second suit, as in Question 4. However, partner might take some violent action in spades or even pass one no trump, neither of which would appeal to you. Pass.